



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



### ARTS

- The Barnstormers present the ever-entertaining **Brignton Beach Memoirs**, B3.
- See the light with our review of **Double Take** at the Contemporary Museum, B3.



### SPORTS

- **Women's basketball** takes on Haverford, delivering a sound beating, B12.
- **Graham Belton**, our Athlete of the Week, makes good time, B11.



### SCIENCE

- Mutations, mosquitoes and malaria? Sounds like a party in the Science section, B6.
- The ICE helps figure out what makes **stem cells** do the things they do, B6.



ALEX BEGLEY/MANAGING EDITOR  
Senior Steve Dunay attended his first StuCo meeting as senator for COLA on Tuesday.

## Council votes to remove '08 senator

Senior class president appoints replacement

By MING WEN & KATLYN TORGERSON  
News-Letter Staff Writers

The senior class council has voted to remove one of its members following allegations that he failed to do his job despite repeated warnings from his peers.

The general Student Council voted in favor of a measure by the senior class to impeach Derrick Kuan, senator for COLA [Council on Leadership Appointment]. This represents one of only two such events in the last two years.

"We had talked to him last semester about his conduct," senior class President Natasha Singh said. "We made the decision that he wasn't changing. He had a good two to three months to perform his duties and he didn't."

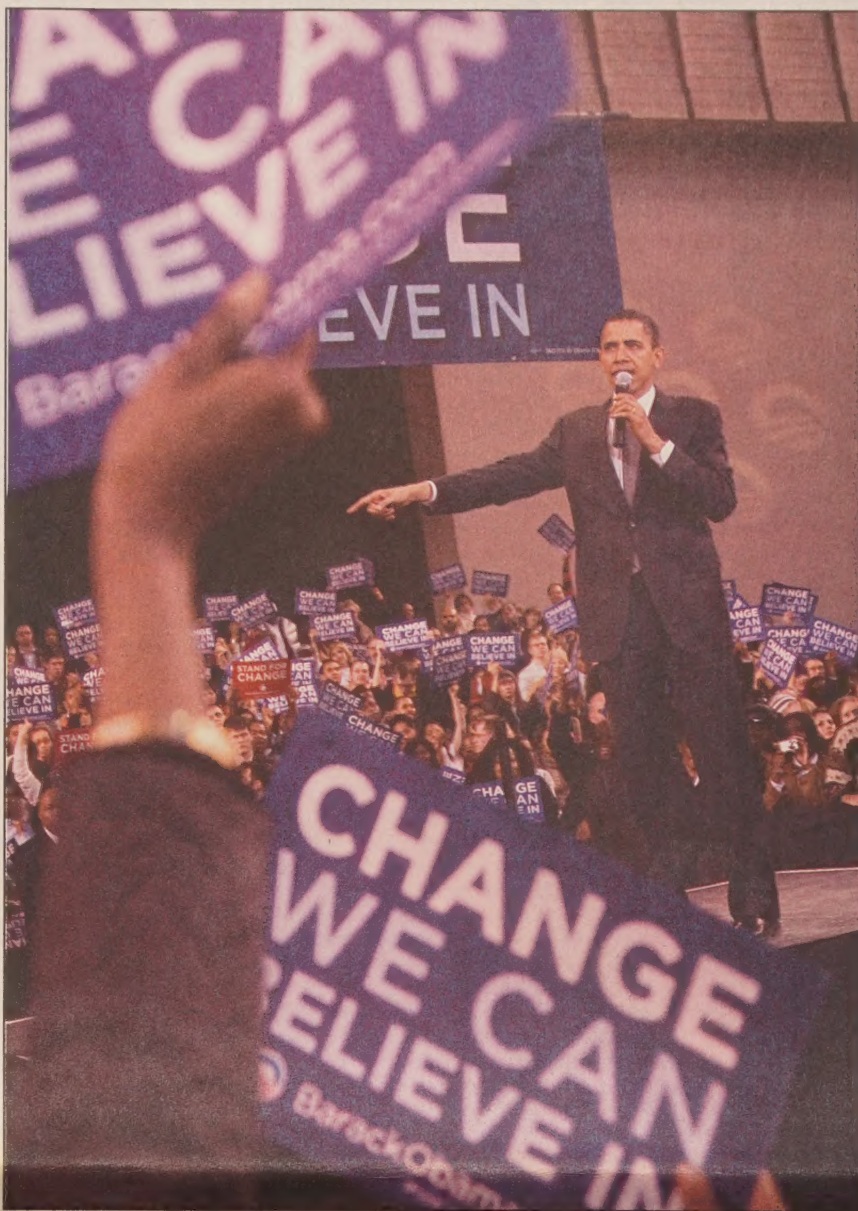
Although Kuan admitted that he made little effort to defend himself, he claimed that the Council was "overreacting. They thought I wasn't doing my job on the senior class council, which doesn't make any sense," he said. Kuan said that the council charged that he did not attend mandatory meetings, and that he interrupted ones that he did attend. He holds that all of his absences had legitimate excuses.

"It wasn't anything personal," Singh said. "We were just more efficient without him than with him."

The majority of the proceedings was carried out in closed council. Members of the senior class council were reluctant to discuss the issue — citing its lack of importance in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE A8

## Obama rallies youth vote in Md. primary



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Hopkins Students for Barack Obama helped students travel to and from the candidate's speech on Monday.

Hopkins students turned out to knock on doors for Obama in days before election

By ALEXANDRA WATSON  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Record numbers of Maryland voters braved icy conditions on Tuesday to catapult Senator Barack Obama to the front of the race for the Democratic nomination, while helping to solidify Senator John McCain's hold on the Republican lead.

Obama campaigned in Maryland on the day before the primary, drawing crowds of nearly 16,000 at the University of Maryland, College Park and 10,000 at the 1st Mariner Arena in downtown Baltimore.

Supporters, including multiple car-pools of Hopkins students, gathered for the afternoon rally in downtown Baltimore around noon, braving the bitter cold for a speech that started after 5 pm. The line stretched around an entire block, snaking through city streets and disrupting traffic.

In preparation for the Maryland campaign, Hopkins students hosted an event for actor and Obama supporter Kal Penn, who campaigned for the senator in Arellano Theater on Friday.

The star of *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle* said that, before this campaign, he was politically independent.

It was Obama's message of unity, as well as his support for universal health care and opposition to the Iraq War that inspired Penn to begin campaigning for the senator in October.

"A lot of members canvassed door-to-door for much of the day, in the freezing rain," Laura Berlinsky-Schine, Media Coordinator for the Johns Hopkins Students for Barack Obama, said. "Most people had already voted."

CONTINUED ON PAGE A7

## Med school still uses pigs for surgery practice

By LIZ SCHWARTZBERG  
Copy Editor

The Hopkins School of Medicine is one of only 10 medical schools in the country that still requires its students to perform surgery on live pigs, a practice that has garnered criticism from animal rights groups.

"[The animals] are treated remarkably well," explained Diana Scorpio, assistant professor and clinical veterinarian at Hopkins.

"They are under very deep anesthesia ... and then they are humanely euthanized."

Scorpio emphasized that very few of Hopkins's animals are used for medical instruction, and that the medical school has taken steps to reduce the number of animals used for teaching.

"Less than one percent is used in teaching and training ... 99 percent is used for research," she said.

The student-to-animal ratio is also geared toward minimizing the number of animals used.

There are usually four to five people per animal, according to Scorpio.

In defense of using live animals

CONTINUED ON PAGE A7



COURTESY OF KEITH WELLER  
Students at the medical school work to perfect their skills through various mock surgeries and operations.

## Anti-genocide group hosts national conference

By LENA DENIS  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Anti-genocide activists hope to spur the administration to action over the weekend at a regional conference held on the Homewood campus.

The conference was one of six sponsored by Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) throughout the year in an effort to gather high school and college students who actively pursue anti-genocide activism, awareness education and divestment policies.

"We're hoping that this conference is going to galvanize the student body and the administration," said Aaron Martel, director of the JHU STAND divestment campaign.

The University and STAND have clashed over the issue of divestment campaign. According to STAND, its divestment campaign has resulted in over 50 universities divesting. Despite the lobbying of STAND, Hopkins has not created a formal divestment policy.

"This is a well-intentioned institution, but there are a small number of people who are willing to protect the endowment and just the endowment," Martel said.

According to JHU STAND President Patrice Hutton, Hopkins administrators do not pay much attention to STAND and have refused multiple times to yield on the issue of divestment.

She considered the conference a "point



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Journalist Samantha Power gave the keynote speech of the STAND Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference.

of leverage" that would help push the school to think about its policies.

"I'd say it's great that [the conference attendees] had the opportunity to network with other students who have the same interests that they do," said Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs Dennis O'Shea.

STAND feels that calling for divestment is a key tool for pressuring universities and states alike, and many have begun to respond.

"I have asked senior administrators at George Washington University to look

into the question of socially responsible global investment and to explore the development of a policy that would follow best practices in working with the investment managers of global funds regarding environmental, social, and governance issues," said GW President and former Hopkins Provost Steven Knapp.

Knapp could not comment on the position Hopkins has taken on divestment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A8

## The frugal travels of a Hopkins alum

By MING WEN  
News-Letter Staff Writer

He's been to India for high tea, to dinner in Istanbul and has skied the Bulgarian slopes. He also has been to Hopkins. Matt Gross, the current writer of the *New York Times's* travel column, "The Frugal Traveler," is a Hopkins alum, having graduated from Hopkins in 1996 and earning his M.F.A. here in 1998.

The *News-Letter* had a chance to speak to him over the phone about his time here, the Writing Seminars program, the world of journalism, and what it's like to be paid to travel around the world.

*News-Letter (N-L): What was the Writing Seminars program like?*

Matt Gross (MG): It helped me a lot but I think with many writing programs, you get out of it what you let yourself get out of it. For my whole career, my whole involvement in the writing seminars, I've always been really eager to accept the fact that I don't know as much as others and was willing to learn more. I was always willing to write more. You approach the seminars and workshops with the idea

CONTINUED ON PAGE A4



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## Panel discusses Islam in the western world as part of FAS

By ANNE FABER  
For The News-Letter

Students and faculty convened at the Glass Pavilion Wednesday for a panel discussion entitled "Perceptions of Islam in the Western World." The event was part of this semester's Foreign Affairs Symposium.

Among the panel was a British diplomat, a Hopkins student and former president of the Hopkins Muslim Association (JHUMA) and a leading minorities and women's rights activist.

Peter Sanders, a photographer, helped plan the event in conjunction with his exhibit *The Art of Integration: Islam in Britain's Green and Pleasant Lands*, which is currently at the Mattin Center.

While the event was scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m., there was a few minutes' delay due to prayers, which took place right in the Pavilion.

Sanders was the first to speak, describing his photographs.

"A 30-day project grew into a three-year project," he said. "It was a voyage of discovery for me

and for you, I hope."

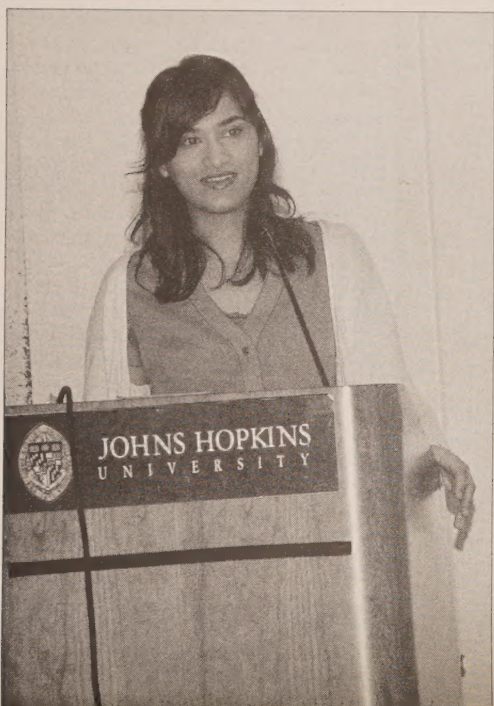
His pictures showed Muslims and other cultural groups all contributing to British society in diverse and unique ways. While describing a picture of a smiling blond woman in a judge's robes, Sanders commented, "not your typical Muslim on the outlook of it."

On another slide, he presented four pictures in photo-booth style. Two traditionally dressed women stood smiling and laughing in them. Sanders informed the crowd that the women were rappers and that he had seen "men actually weeping at the lyrics they created."

Sanders then flashed a slide of a woman completely covered in gray cloth, with only a small slit for her eyes, applying high-fashion make-up to another woman.

As he neared the end, Sanders assured the highly attentive audience.

"I'm just showing you a cross section, there are so many. It was hard to just choose a few," he said.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Senior Farah Qureshi speaks about being a Muslim in America.

"Islam is like a pure river: If the rocks below it are black, the river is black. If the rocks are yellow the river is yellow," he said. "It's just like in Africa, Islam is African. If you are in China, Islam is Chinese and if you are in Britain, Islam is British."

The next speaker, Manal Omar, a civil rights activist, revealed her personal struggles as a Muslim in the West with a powerful voice.

"I am a very



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
A panel discusses western perceptions of Islam at a forum in the Glass Pavilion.

strong advocate of women's rights but at the same time I've been told I'm wearing the ultimate symbol of patriarchy," she said, referring to her choice to wear the traditional head-scarf.

Despite these comments and others like "curtain-head or whatever creative thing they can come up with," she urged Muslims to "define yourself, don't let people force you."

She has learned, over time, to "celebrate the different parts of my identity."

Speaking in accompaniment to Sanders's portrayal of Muslims in Britain, a non-Muslim British Diplomat spoke about the western perspective. He joked lightly about how he couldn't possibly talk about the question, "Would Churchill have invaded Iraq?" garnering chuckles from the crowd.

On a more serious note, he said, "There is some ignorance due to sensational media coverage."

However, "Islam has played a huge role in creating Britain for, arguably, the past millennium," he said.

Ultimately, he concluded that people's basic needs, like educating their children or freedom of travel and speech are universal desires.

"Integration doesn't mean uniformity, nor does it mean people need to give up their identity," he said.

Finally, Hopkins senior Farah Qureshi spoke about her personal experiences as a Muslim in America.

"What I learned from a young age is that your faith is something within you," she said. "It inspires me to do good in the world. When I treat others with respect it's because my god expects it."

"Having friends called terrorists, Islamo-fascists, had a profound effect on me even though I never experienced it personally," she said. "I felt like, if they got to know us, it would be different."

The overall message was one of hope for the future, as well as a call to recognize the need for increased understanding.

"If you're foreign in another country, it's hard to be accepted, so you have to reach out on a limb and sort of show people you're normal," Sanders said during the question and answer session.

"As with any world faith, you have misconceptions," said Omair Javed, president of the JHUMA. "We hope to show our contribution to Western society ... to portray the reality of the situation."

"It was very interesting; they all had such different backgrounds but they all seemed to have the same message," freshman Jesse McDermeit said. "They want to portray a better view of what Islam really is."

## Students look to adopt new green initiatives

Fund would provide for sustainable improvements to Homewood facilities; StuCo to vote on the plan next week

By PAYAL PATNAIK  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Freshman Dan Teran is pushing the University to adopt a new program that would create a fund for students to help the school go green.

The Sustainable Revolving Loan Fund would provide capital for departments across Homewood to make sustainable improvements to their facilities. In theory, these updates would be more cost-efficient and energy-efficient, and departments would save money in energy costs by implementing them.

The fund would require departments to pay back the money at a low interest rate, but the savings from the projects would easily cover the costs over time.

Hence, the fund is "revolving" since it sustains itself through the savings that it generates.

"This would definitely increase student involvement and put them in charge of a revolving fund and in a position to make executive decisions about projects," Teran said.

Teran sees a place for students to be directly involved in the departmental decisions.

The current proposal is for a \$500,000 fund and stipulates that the success of the initiative would be evaluated after two years. This period would give the University time to see the changes and accordingly allocate more or less

money toward the effort.

The existing proposal will be brought before Student Council on Tuesday in the hopes that they will vote for a resolution in support of it, and pass it on to the administration.

Then, unidentified members of the administration will vote on the proposal and allocation of funds. Essentially, the administrative board would be directly investing in students and their ideas for a sustainable future, Teran said. He added that alumni donations could also fund the effort.

A similar initiative was brought before the administration two years ago but was rejected. Teran stressed that he thinks the

administration has a tendency to reject these types of measures in general, but that having the support of the Student Council should help to push this one through.

Harvard started a Green Campus Initiative in 2000, which has seen significant

reductions in its carbon dioxide emissions, total solid waste and usage of water.

Teran said that Hopkins could focus on smaller projects. One of his favorite examples is a project undertaken by the University of California, Berkeley in which students fixed the toilets in one building that was roughly the size of the AMRs and saved \$20,000.

— Katlyn Torgerson contributed to this article.

This would definitely increase student involvement and put them ... in a position to make executive decisions about projects.

— DAN TERAN, FRESHMAN CLASS PRESIDENT






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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# JHU foreign language enrollment increases

By SPENCER WILSON & KATHERINE KELBERG  
News-Letter Staff Writers

As the nation sees an upsurge in enrollment in for foreign language classes and a strain on the availability of qualified teachers, Hopkins has worked to meet the increased demands.

According to a study by the Modern Language Association (MLA), colleges have seen enrollments increase — particularly in Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and American Sign Language.

While this growth has nationally brought on a shortage of teachers and a stop gap of sometimes unqualified replacements, Hopkins faculty feel they are sufficiently meeting the demand.

"Many of the top universities were insulated from any decline in foreign language enrollments," said Stephen Nichols, head of the German and Romance Languages and Literature Department.

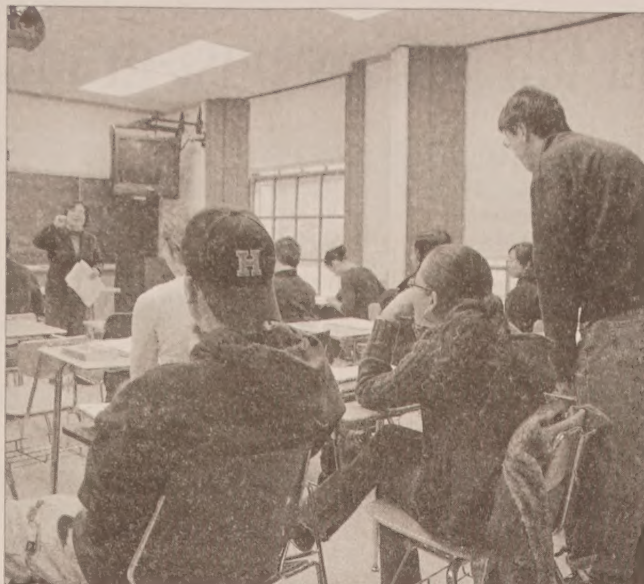
Arabic, the fastest-growing major language in the nation, is taught by only two professors at Hopkins. National enrollment in Arabic has increased by more than 100 percent, according to the MLA study.

"I have had offers to teach at other universities. All universities are short of professors," Arabic lecturer Khalil Tahrawi said.

Tahrawi said he has seen enrollment increase to more than 100 students up from just 35 students when he started in at Hopkins in 2004.

The MLA study found that about 1.5 million students are currently taking language classes, a 12.9 percent increase since 2002.

However, enrollment numbers decreased significantly after the introductory level of study.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Hopkins has seen an increase in foreign language enrollment, including in Chinese.

Analysis of national enrollment found that only five languages had 20 percent of the undergraduate classes offered at the advanced level.

Nationally, the ratio of enrollments in introductory classes to advanced classes in Arabic falls at only eight to one. Chinese is slightly better at nine to two, while Spanish is five to one.

Coordinator of German Language Instruction Deborah Mifflin said she feels the foreign language programs at Hopkins "do a good job of retaining students who start with us. We are keeping student s interested."

At Hopkins, requirements for the International Studies major — the most popular undergraduate major in the arts and sciences — keep students enrolled through upper-level classes.

"The best way of encouraging language study is to tie it in with what students want to learn. We made a series of propositions according to which languages could be tied to majors and the model was of course IR," Nichols said.

"I would say that at least two-thirds of my [introductory Arabic class] is made up of IR majors," said Caroline Berger, a freshman International Studies major.

"At Hopkins, Chinese and Arabic have increased so much

because they open the doors to high-need jobs. Students are taking the language for career opportunities, not necessarily because they love the culture, the food or the music," said sophomore Michael Arnst, who is currently enrolled in German, Portuguese and Swahili.

An initiative to help students majoring in maths and sciences would have helped them to find lab internships in foreign countries. While Nichols said this could have been arraigned and there was interest, the idea was eventually dropped.

"Our colleagues in the sciences just felt that there were already so many requirements that this would just add one more level. They weren't sure they could spare the students for a full semester," Nichols said.

Korean is also a growing language, both nationally and at Hopkins. Originally the language was only offered at the University during Intersession, but grew to become a full program in 2006.

"We added one course at a time and found that as soon as we opened up a course, students would sign up. Enrollment has been steady ever since," said Chunwoo Kang, the University's sole Korean professor.

## College legislation meets opposition

By ERIN YANG  
For The News-Letter

The White House has objected to certain provisions of a new bill that aims to make higher education "more accessible, affordable and accountable" to middle class and low-income students.

The White House released a Statement of Administration Policy on Feb. 6, which affirmed its attitudes toward the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007.

The House of Representatives, by a bipartisan vote of 354 to 58, passed the bill on Feb. 7.

"We hope that the Bush administration will join our efforts to make college more

affordable and accessible for all qualified students," said Rachel Racusen, spokeswoman for the House Education and Labor Committee (HELC).

Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the HELC, sponsored the bill.

The administration objected to amendments that would affect the Department of Education's authority to evaluate accreditations and to oversee the integrity of student loans, claiming to be "strongly opposed."

Additionally, the administration believed the Act might prioritize, or possibly restrict, eligibility "to institutions or groups defined by racial or ethnic criteria."

The creation of many new federal programs that are "duplicative" and "poorly targeted" was opposed as well.

The new bill will hold colleges and universities, both public and private, responsible for rampant tuition increases and for reducing costs.

"Despite a considerable federal investment, colleges and universities have continued to push tuition upward," Rep. Howard McKeon, senior Republican on the HELC, said. "We're empowering consumers with meaningful information about college costs and holding institutions and states accountable for keeping higher education affordable."

Despite the

White House's strong objections to the bill, the HELC remains optimistic.

"This bill has strong support and enthusiasm from members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, the higher education community and, most importantly, students," Racusen said.

But not all members of the higher education community are entirely supportive of the bill.

Adam Falk, dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, said whether "to attend colleges that are cheaper or more expensive ... that's a choice [the consumers] should make in the marketplace and not one that should be imposed by the government."

An amendment to the bill would have colleges with the fastest tuition increases over a three-year period either meet government-set benchmarks or explain the inflated cost.

"This is unwarranted, excessive and unnecessary interference in the management of individual schools," said Dennis O'Shea, director of communications at Hopkins.

Many public institutions are concerned that the bill would establish a "higher-education price index," and if their tuition grew faster than the index, that school would be placed on a watch list.

"[It is] a disputed part of the

bill ... [but] it is intended to put a stop to rising tuition prices," Racusen said.

Public universities' ability to maintain moderate tuition increases depends heavily on adequate state funding.

Hopkins does support a provision in the bill that would increase the ceiling on Pell Grants from \$4,310 to \$9,000 and allow students to receive funds year-round.

"That's good for students and the University is very pleased," O'Shea said.

"I am confident that this bill will help ensure that every qualified student has the opportunity to get an affordable, world-class college education," Miller said.

The Act primarily addresses rising college tuition, focusing on complex financial aid processes, the transparency of the costs and qualities of student loan organizations, and educational funding by state governments.

The Act amends and reauthorizes the previous Higher Education Act of 1965.

The HELC approved it unanimously on Nov. 15, 2007.

In July of last year, the Senate passed a similar bill. The House and the Senate will conference on the legislation. The bill must be signed by the president before it becomes law.

### College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007

- Creates a simplified financial aid form, FAFSA-EZ, for low-income families.

- Ensures faculty have pricing information when making textbook adoptions.

- Establishes a relief loan program to assist schools in rebuilding following a natural disaster.

- Raises the ceiling on Pell Grant scholarships from \$4,310 to \$9,000.

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NEWS & FEATURES

# Students' names remain private in security reports

By ADI ELBAZ  
For The News-Letter

A threat that comes from outside the campus community does not, by and large, enter into the insular student consciousness. But would Hopkins pay more attention to a student-on-student crime?

If such a crime were to happen at the University, a recent ruling by a federal appeals court would allow campus security to publish the name of the alleged perpetrator in its alerts.

The First U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Johnson & Wales University after a former student filed a defamation lawsuit.

Accused of assault and identified in a security alert, Christopher Havlik was later cleared by a jury.

The lawsuit raised questions of the University's participation in the federal Clery Act, a piece of legislation stating that universities receiving federal financial aid must record and disseminate information about crime on or near their campus.

"Though we abide by all Clery requirements to report crimes on and around campus ... we do not relinquish any student identifiers ... to protect the confidentiality of the students," Lieutenant Steve Ossmus of Campus Security said.

Ossmus had no comment on Hopkins's future policies in light of the ruling, stating that he would have to confer with the Hopkins General Council before he could make any other comments.

The incident Havlik was involved in was a fraternity-related altercation with fellow student Donald Ratcliffe. Ratcliffe ended up in the hospital with a concussion and a fractured skull. Witnesses also reported that Havlik threatened Ratcliffe at knifepoint, an allegation that

Havlik fervently denied.

Four days after the incident, the Johnson & Wales student conduct board called for Havlik's dismissal from the University but dropped the charges of knife possession. However, the subsequent campus crime alert, which named both Havlik and his fraternity, contained mention of the knife.

Havlik's attempt to appeal the board's ruling failed, and he found guilty of assault in state district court. He was later acquitted in May 2005 and promptly sued the U.S. District Court for "defamatory publication of false information [namely, mention of the knife] by means of the crime alert."

The court decided that despite its inaccuracy in mentioning the knife, the University's publication of the crime alert was "without malice" towards Havlik and was not defamation of character. Havlik's lawyer was reportedly "disappointed" by this ruling but does not plan to appeal.

Many Hopkins students are sympathetic towards Havlik's dilemma.

"The fact that the campus published his name ... is a rather large invasion of privacy. As long as students are safe, it's not the school's place to reveal an attacker's name," sophomore Lauren Flugler said.

Sophomore Mike Brooks agreed, stating, "Suspensions can ruin reputations unnecessarily."

"Given that security updates are typically issued after crimes have already been committed, it's unclear how naming specific individuals will have any positive effect on public safety," senior David Weinstein said.

"I don't need it to be the priority of the school to keep the attacker's rights private ... this person attacked others. ... the ruling doesn't make me feel safer ... What am I going to do? Look up his Facebook?" freshman Rivky Stern said.

# Hopkins alum tells of his post-graduation travels

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1  
that you can learn a lot to write. You can really learn quite a lot. But obviously other people had more confidence in what they were doing and were not learning as much.

It taught me so much. I can't even read the things that I wrote. I can't believe that I was so naïve. I would just be nowhere without Jean McGarry. When I was a senior I managed somehow to sneak my way into her final graduate seminar. I was the lone undergrad amid a dozen grad students. I was a total arrogant dick.

N-L: So what is working at the *New York Times* like?

MG: I just mostly deal with my editors. I don't have a full time job there. There's always a sense that it's the NYT. There's a sort of sense that there is a higher standard to needs to be maintained. At other magazines people could be sort of sloppy, at the *Times* you always need to have the facts and the reporting to back up anything that you say.

It's not just a lush tour of a fancy place, or some luxurious writing about a luxurious destination. There's got to be actual news value and the reporting done to make these places relevant. The whole thing with travel writing is there is nowhere new. The editor knows every place on earth. Why is it relevant now why should we know about a place? That's a big thing at NYT. When I first started writing at the *Times*, they actually liked what I wrote.

I was just sort of surprised. They liked what I was doing. I asked them why and they said, "Because you do actual reporting, not just gushing about the beauty of some place or the fancy meals or the beautiful people." There is actual reporting. It's a lot of fun, but fun can occasionally breed laziness.

N-L: What convinced you that fiction was not for you?

MG: In the fiction world, writing publishing short stories is

slow and not very lucrative. You know, maybe if you sell a story to story magazine to a quarterly maybe you'll get \$300. It's more prestige but it's not gonna keep you going. It's really, really tough. Unless maybe you get a novel done, or get an agent right out of college.

There are a lot more opportunities in journalism. I worked my way up. Journalism is a job. Novel writing is great but not the kind of thing you can count on to pay bills. I'm just a sort of lazy person. I can't get up in the morning. I'm up late at night, up late at morning. When I'm not travelling, I work at home.

N-L: Where did you start in journalism?

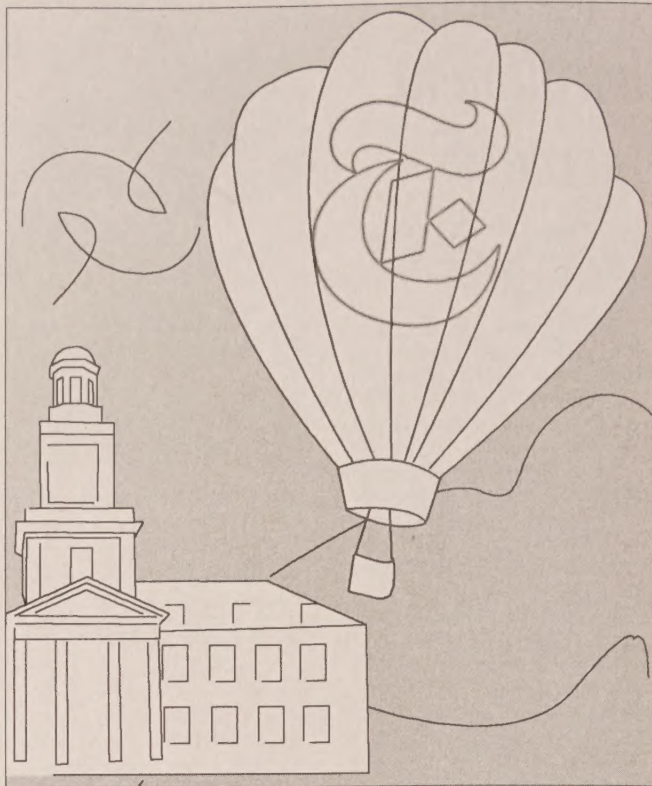
MG: The first place I worked for was a magazine called *Shoot*. It was a trade paper covering the TV commercials industry. I was a copy editor there and you know, fixed and edited everything that went in the magazine for six or seven months. It was my first real job.

Early 1999, I left there and went to work for *FoxNews.com*. At the time it was a lot more interesting than the TV commercial industry. At that time in early 1999 no one had really heard of Fox News at all. It was like what, Fox what? ... Even the cable channel barely knew that they had a Web site. Completely different editorial structure. They were not in touch at all ... I started as a copy editor, sort of became a news editor. I was the lead news editor, keeping track of what's going on in the wires, sort of keeping everything up to date. I did a lot of writing for news stories too.

It was excellent training for journalism because of the Web thing going up so quickly. You have to write so quickly. You have to get it up instantly full story. Covering things like the Kosovo war and the 2000 elections. And it was also not quick as significant writing training as Seminars but it instilled a lot of discipline of writing, economy. Writing Seminars let me develop without word limits. It was a new type of story.

N-L: How did the trip around the world in 90 days happen?

MG: I'd been writing for them [the *New York Times*] for about a year when I came back from a trip to Hong Kong and Malaysia. I came back and they said "Hey how would you like to do a 90-day round-the-world trip as the frugal traveler?" It's been around for 10 years at least. The women who started it [was] Susan Magrino. She did the Frugal Traveler for a long time, for five or six years and I think when my editors took over the travel section they decided to change direction with the Frugal Traveler concept.



MATT HANSEN/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Anyone could write for the frugal travel column any time they wanted. I had done a few of them and they liked what I was doing. And they said hey why don't you take over the column. Well here's the thing when you're dealing with freelancers. I don't own the name the FT. They control it and I can call myself it. It's informal but there is no special long term contract. They own the stuff.

N-L: Has anyone ever come up to you and said, "Hey, you're the Frugal Traveler!"

MG: No one's ever bothered me and said are you that guy. It's more like I'll meet people and then slowly drop hints. If I trust them and then say actually what I do is this. This guy I met in Darjeeling in India and he was volunteering in Himalayas and I told him I worked for the *Times* and he said do you know the Frugal Traveler? Everyone thinks it's you know the most glamorous thing in the world.

I love it, I love travelling, but you know it's also work. It's not just like a never ending vacation on an unlimited expense account. It's work and it's stressful and you try hard to get the story right. I wish I could lean back with a martini and bask in the glory of it all.

N-L: What is your advice to Hopkins students?

MG: I don't know what the general attitude at Hopkins is now, but when I went to school people kind of hated Hopkins. It was not fun. It can be pretty sort of depressing at times. No one is really happy and having a lot of

fun. I had a great time.

The one thing I learned about Hopkins, which is my advice to undergrads, is: If you sit around waiting for Hopkins to provide entertainment and opportunities you are going to be miserable. It's a research institution that focuses more on graduate students.

You can treat it like a grad student professional and get all the resources a grad student gets. You can say I'm not going to be a 19-year-old undergrad. I'm going to act like serious professional that has ideas that need to be taken seriously. When you act like that the school will respond appropriately.

My friends and I came up with things we wanted to do, proposed them to the administration and they gave us tons of money to do what we loved to do. My friends and I ran the MSE Symposium one year. If you wait for someone to offer you opportunities to advance your interests, it's never going to happen.

If you take things in to your own hands, the school will be incredibly supportive of what you do academically and intellectually. I was paying them \$10,000 a year and they would give it back in the things that I really wanted to accomplish. I could do what I wanted and more out of school.

You could almost argue that that's what I've done ever since. I'm going to do what I want to do and I'd like you to support it, and it's been kind of my attitude since then. There was quite a bit of risk taking but it was more rewarding than you know, waiting for some set program to come.

# Crime watch aided by student participation

By ALEXANDRA BYER  
For The News-Letter

Hopkins has 900 students and staff members signed up to participate in the Baltimore City program entitled "Operation Crime Watch." The program allows the Baltimore City Police Department 3,000 patrol officers to double the number of eyes and ears patrolling city streets.

Crime Watch began in the late 1970s and was revamped in 2003 to include a new computerized database. At the time of its founding, the program was called Block Watch and revolved more around citizens' specific blocks.

Any Baltimore citizen has the ability to sign up for Crime Watch, including students living in Baltimore and anyone working in the city. This includes Hopkins students who have a Block Watch number and the ability to report a crime at any time. The program has been advertised around campus by Campus Safety and Security at places such as the Fresh Food Café.

Hopkins students are active at different time schedules than local community members, allowing students' participation in the crime reporting of Charles Village to be crucial. This creates a balance between when community members are actively participating and when students are, generally because students stay up later.

There is a huge emphasis on trying to expand the program in Charles Village to include individuals not affiliated with the university. Vital to the program is getting "more eyes and ears on the streets ... with more reporting. If there are more people in the city reporting crimes, then there is also the chance that there will be less crime in those areas because of such reporting: [Criminals] will know it's not a place to be," said Salem Reiner, director of Community Affairs.

Operation Crime Watch is mainly about a "higher level of awareness," Baltimore police Officer Douglas Gibson said. "It is the commitment of individuals to commit to their fellow citizens to take extra time and initiative to report things they see around them."

According to Gibson, the program has been strongly promoted to increase student participation and Executive Director Edmund Skrodzki has been an impetus in getting students and faculty to participate.

Over 3,000 Baltimore residents are part of the program in the Northern district, which involves reporting suspicious activity around the city. The Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice, the Baltimore City Police and the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area are all working together with these Baltimore citizens to "prevent and reduce crime" in their city, according to

the Baltimore government's Web site.

The largest component of the Crime Watch program is Block Watch. This is a seven-digit number that citizens can receive from the police department that keeps their identity anonymous if or when they report suspicious activity or a crime in the city.

The reporter of a crime simply gives their number to the operator after dialing 911 and all of their information is stored so that they are kept safe. This anonymity is to prevent drug dealers from reaching the reporters or from having the police contact them directly.

Both Reiner and Gibson say that it is hard to know exactly how effective Crime Watch has been.

"It's hard to correlate the number of people in it with the percentage decrease," Reiner said.

But Gibson says that there has in fact been a 10 percent decrease in crime in the Northern district, where Charles Village is located and hopes that at least some of that comes from the success of Operation Crime Watch.

"[It is the] commitment of individuals to commit to fellow citizens to take extra time and take initiative report things they see around them," Gibson said. One of the key aspects of Operation Crime Watch is the ability it has to create more witnesses and have people become more aware of crime on the street.

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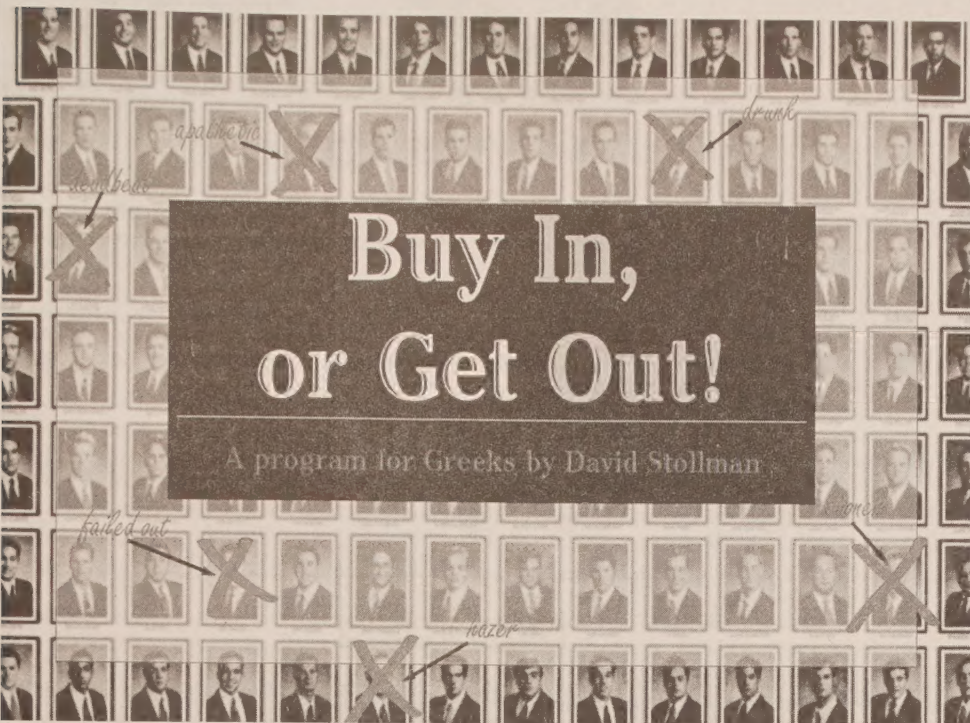
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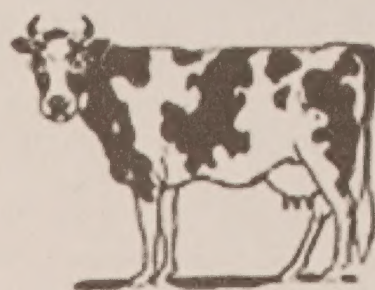
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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## City Beat

## City to pay students for higher test scores

By HUSAIN DANISH  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Baltimore students struggling to pass Maryland's High School Assessments (HSA) will earn money for improving their scores, according to plans announced by the city's public school system.

Opponents have called the initiative a formalized system of bribery where the only incentive for the students to learn is money, a charge officials from the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) deny.

"Bribery denotes that you are paying someone to do something that they are not supposed to do, something that's illegal, unethical or immoral. That is not the case with the HSA recovery program," said Tisha Edwards, special assistant to Andres Alonso, chief executive officer of the BCPSS.

"We are providing incentives to students that earn them based on the academic growth while participating in this program," she said.

"The research literature indicates that paying students to improve test scores is like giving athletes steroids. It can improve test scores but will not produce long-term gain," said Robert Schaeffer, public education director for the National Center for Fair and Open Testing.

"We end up creating students who believe that if they are not being paid, they don't need to put in the effort to learn," he said.

Baltimore students who have failed at least one exam will earn \$25 for improving test performance by 5 percent. If they improve by an additional 15 percent, they will get \$35 more.

A growth of 20 percent more earns an added \$50, for a maximum of \$110.

Starting next year, high school students in the state will be required to pass these tests in order to graduate.

This will be the first plan of

its kind to be implemented in the state of Maryland.

"From a policy level it makes sense. Money is generally the best motivator, and if the system works efficiently, I'm sure that test scores will go up," said Justin Jones, a Hopkins sophomore and Baltimore City College graduate.

But as a Baltimorean and a student, Jones said he was "saddened that there is just no desire to learn. It reflects poorly on this city and this country that we have to pay this next generation to better themselves."

Schaeffer said he believes students will gain an incentive to do worse in class so that they can later be paid for improving grades.

"It teaches students who already do well that they are suckers. We want to motivate students to learn and become lifelong learners," he said.

BCPSS officials, however, argue that it has supplied plenty of incentives for students who already do well.

The HSA recovery program includes funding for principals to hire current students who have already passed the state examinations.

These students will have the opportunity to use their skills and knowledge to earn money by helping their fellow classmates to pass the test.

Similar plans that pay students for improved test scores have been implemented elsewhere, including New York City, where elementary school children can be paid up to \$500 for improving test scores and maintaining good

attendance.

While that plan uses private funds, the Baltimore City initiative will use public money.

A 2004 federal audit discovered that funds earmarked specifically for Title One programs — which provide special services for underprivileged students — were not being used for that purpose.

As a result, BCPSS agreed to submit to state approval before going ahead with plans for how to spend \$9 million set aside for extra tutoring and programs for students in need.

State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick approved the plan in January.

"Ms. Grasmick approved the plan because it was permissible under state law," said William Reinhard, media specialist for the state's superintendent office.

The system will spend \$935,622 on the student incentives, part of a \$6.3 million plan to help students Maryland's HSA.

The other \$2.7 million has already been spent.

The incentives in Baltimore are part of a broader strategy to help older students pass high-stakes tests.

"We expect that students will benefit from the extra instructional supports they will receive after-school and on Saturdays. We also have already seen an increased interest in the community's desire to help our students," Edwards said.

Robert Balfanz of the Center for Social Organization of Schools at Hopkins could not be reached for comment.

**We end up creating students who believe that if they are not being paid, they don't need to put in the effort to learn.**

— ROBERT SCHAEFFER,  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
FAIR AND OPEN TESTING

## United Way, JHU create Neighborhood Fund

By CHLOE MARK  
For The News-Letter

Part of the 2007 United Way Central Maryland Campaign is the Johns Hopkins Neighborhood Fund.

The fund is an effort to give back to the neighborhoods surrounding Hopkins entirely through the donations by Hopkins staff and faculty.

"It's important to realize our impact here and to give back," Director of Community Affairs Salem Reiner said.

The fund will provide grants to needy organizations in an effort to address the needs of residents throughout the area.

These needs include issues regarding health, educational, public safety, employment and community revitalization.

So far in under a year, the Fund has received pledges of \$164,000 from various faculty and staff members of the University.

Reiner said that an institution as large as Hopkins will create issues for a surrounding neighborhood without even trying.

These issues range from the slow of people the school inevitably attracts to the different internal clocks of students, he



LUCY LIU/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Neighborhoods like this street in E. Baltimore could benefit from the fund's grant money.

said.

Grants are expected to be made sometime in July or August of 2008.

In the meantime, the fund is in the process of appointing a committee dedicated to controlling where grants are to be made throughout the area.

The committee members will comprise contributors to the fund from a varied selection of Hopkins institutions with experience in community outreach.

Helped by the United Way

staff, the committee will review, evaluate and prioritize grant requests from different organizations located throughout the Baltimore area.

The committee will have an enormous impact on which institutions do or do not receive grants.

The beauty of the Fund, explained Reiner, is that it encourages a positive partnership between the individuals at Hopkins and the members of the local community.

## News in Brief

## Researchers team up for new study on pollutants

Two Hopkins chemists have decided to combine their areas of expertise for a new study involving chemical reactions in environmental pollutants.

Justine Roth is an assistant professor in the Krieger School's Department of Chemistry. Her research focuses on the redox reactions — that is, the gaining and losing of electrons — of enzyme-bound metals, especially in reactions with oxygen.

Alan Stone, from the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, is an environmental chemist interested in using Roth's methods to learn more about how pollutants react with naturally occurring substances in the environment.

Their research could be helpful in predicting which pollutants are immediate threats to public and environmental health.

Within the next six months, Roth and Stone plan to hire a postdoctoral fellow to conduct the study under the supervision of the two senior scientists.

A \$120,000 fellowship grant from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation will provide the necessary funding for two years of experiment and analysis by the to-be-hired researcher.

## Study shows large decline in errors made by pilots

The Bloomberg School of Public Health has released findings which reveal a significant decline in mishaps related to pilot error between 1983 and 2002.

The rate of mishaps caused by pilots dropped 40 percent in that time, though the total number remained the same. The research team found a 71 percent decline in mishaps caused by pilots' flawed decisions, an improve-

ment attributed to advancements in training and technology.

An analysis of 558 airline mishaps examined several possible circumstances of pilot error.

These included carelessness, poor decision-making, poor communication or mismanagement of the aircraft.

The study also included some interesting findings concerning the conditions surrounding these mishaps.

The most common pilot error — making bad decisions about adverse weather — experienced a 76-percent decline, while mishaps related to poor crew communication decreased by 68 percent.

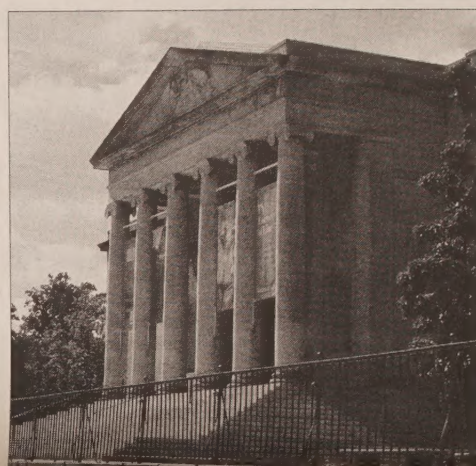
Despite these dramatic figures, the rate of mishaps during the times when the aircraft was motionless or being pushed back from the gate more than doubled.

The researchers also noted an increase in mishaps unrelated to pilot error, many of which are attributed to mistakes by air traffic control and ground personnel.

Susan Baker, from the Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy and Bloomberg's Department of Health and Policy Management, acted as the lead author of the study.

## Krieger School introduces online master's degree in museum studies

An innovative new program offered by the Krieger School's Advanced Academic Programs division will allow students worldwide to earn a master of



FILE PHOTO

The Museum Studies program would allow for students to gain hands-on experience as curators.

arts degree in museum studies online.

The program will be led by Chair Robert Kargon, the Willis K. Shepard professor of the history of science at Hopkins.

He will be assisted by Associate Chair Phyllis Hecht, former manager of the Web site for the National Gallery of Art.

The program was endorsed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission in October.

Students admitted to the program will have to complete 10 courses, only one of which, an on-site seminar, is not conducted online.

The Web classes will feature text notes, PowerPoint presentations with voiceover, video and bulletin board-style discussions.

To insure maximum communication between the students and faculty, classes will be kept small.

The seminar portion, to take place in Washington, D.C., will involve museum visits, networking with professionals, symposia and a hands-on project.

For students who desire to take part in additional real world experience, arrangements will be made at museums near the students' homes for an optional special project.

— All briefs written by Alex Vockroth



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## SECURITY ALERTS

Feb. 7 at 6:10 a.m. — A non-affiliate was identified in the Hutzel Reading Room in Gilman Hall and issued a warning for trespassing.

Between Feb. 7 at 5:00 p.m. and Feb. 10 at 4:15 p.m. — The rear window of an undergraduate's parked vehicle was broken, and approximately \$2 in change were stolen from the ashtray. The vehicle was parked on East 30th Street at the time. Baltimore police were notified and investigations are ongoing.

Feb. 9 at 1:56 a.m. — A senior undergraduate reported witnessing an unknown college-aged male involved in an altercation with two of the witness's roommates in front of the Bradford Apartments. Upon approaching the male, he struck her, but she was not injured. The common assault is considered to be alcohol-related. Campus security, the Student and Community Liaison and off-duty Baltimore police responded. Investigations are continuing.

Feb. 10 at 3:37 a.m. — A college-aged male was seen on the CCTV observation system stomping on a pair of bicycles secured to the rack in front of Charles Commons before entering the building. Campus security responded. Investigations are ongoing.

Feb. 13 at 3:40 a.m. — The non-affiliate cited with a trespassing warning on Feb. 7 was again found in the Hut by campus security. The man was escorted from the campus by Baltimore police after he was issued a criminal citation for trespassing.

— compiled by Marie Cushing



# Hopkins comes under fire for animal testing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

to instruct medical students, Scorpio stressed that students who have experience with live animals "are much more proficient at understanding anatomy, and how to manipulate tissue in surgery."

Philip Militello, assistant professor of the surgery at the University of Maryland, finds using human cadavers to be more advantageous.

"The anatomy of a cadaver is identical to a patient, while a dog's anatomical landmarks differ," he stated on the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine Web site. "Over the years, it has become clear that students enjoy doing the procedures on a human cadaver specimen because of the identical scenarios, landmarks, and the hands-on experience. It mirrors the clinical scenario and is very well received."

**Virtually every major medical advance of the last century is due, in part, to research with animals.**

— GEORGE GOODNO, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

In a December 2007 letter addressed to Dean Edward Miller of Hopkins's School of Medicine, Executive Director of the National Center for Animal Law Laura Ireland Moore expressed the organization's dismay at the University's use of live animals in medical training. Moore accused the medical school of bending if not breaking the law.

"The use of animals in classrooms violates the spirit and letter of the Federal Animal Welfare Act," Moore wrote. "In light of the availability of superior, non-animal alternative technologies in medical school education, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine arguably violates the principles set forth in the Animal Welfare Act by using pigs in its classrooms."

In her letter, Moore also pointed out that Harvard, Yale, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania and Duke "have determined that students earn at least equal, if not better, training without the use of live animals in the classroom."

George Goodno, the director of communications for the National Association for Biomedical Research in Washington, D.C., explained in greater detail what the Animal Welfare Act requires of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs).

"The Animal Welfare Act sets high standards of care for lab animals with regard to their housing, feeding, cleanliness, ventilation and medical needs. Most importantly, research institutions are required — by law — to establish an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee to oversee all work with animals," he said.

"IACUCs are carefully structured to include at least one non-affiliated layperson to represent the general community interest."

The Animal Care and Use Committee at Hopkins is an organization that "is designed to assure that it is in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act regulations and Public Health Service Policy," according to its Web site.

"We have an enrichment supervisor for all of the species that we have here," said Kinta Diven, senior training and compliance specialist for the Committee.

"We have a wide range of things that people do. There are 24-hour vets on call, and there are very specific rules and regu-

lations."

Diven also explained that the animals, whether for medical instruction or research purposes, are anesthetized and unconscious during the procedures, and do not feel pain.

According to Goodno, there are significant legitimate reasons for using animals for research.

"There are striking similarities between the physiological systems of humans and various species of animals," he said.

Studies with mice have led to improved knowledge of the immune system, and studies with dogs have provided us with better understanding of the cardiovascular system, according to Goodno.

"In fact, virtually every major medical advance of the last century is due, in part, to research with animals," he said. "Finally, both U.S. and international laws require that all medical research be conducted on animals before humans."

There are other divisions within the University that actively promote using alternatives to animals whenever possible.

Hopkins's Bloomberg School of Public Health runs the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT), which does not regulate the use and treatment of animals at Hopkins, but advocates the use of *in vitro* testing as an alternative to using animals.

The CAAT's Web site says that their goals are to promote the development of *in vitro* techniques, attempt to foster discussion among groups, provide reliable information and educate and train scientists in the application of alternatives.

Alan M. Goldberg, director and chairman of the Board at the CAAT, explained that "*in vitro* literally means 'in glass,' so it means taking cells with tissue pieces, growing them outside the body, and then doing the studies on those cells that grow from that inoculation."

Scorpio noted research that is performed on animals for the benefit of humans can be extremely helpful in the veterinary field.

"You have to remember that everything that's done in the medical field ultimately helps animals too," she said. "What's done in the human field immediately correlates to the veterinary field."

At the end of her letter, Moore urged the medical school to "immediately cease using live animals as teaching tools in order to comply with the terms of the Animal Welfare Act, to modernize your curricula and to be responsive to the mission and sentiments of your students."

A 2004 report by the Human Society estimated the University's animals to number 4349, among which was 820 pigs, commonly used for practice surgeries.

A recent report from the University, however, estimates it has "roughly 155,000" animals used for research and medical training.

— Additional reporting by Alexandra Watson

# Obama and McCain take Maryland, D.C., Virginia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Berlinsky-Schine, who registered to vote in Maryland and participated in Tuesday's primaries, also said, "Republicans and independents are voting for Obama too. He has cross-party appeal because he's such an exciting candidate. He's drawing support from a wide range of groups."

Alice Marks, a sophomore at Hopkins and a permanent Maryland resident, voted for the first time in Tuesday's Democratic primary, "To be honest, I didn't see a lot of campaigning in Maryland," she said. "I know that Sen. Obama stopped by Baltimore, and that was exciting for me. The only time I ever saw a Clinton supporter was the day of the election. I thought that was strange."

Like many Maryland voters, Marks supported Obama, and said she was not surprised that he won by such a large margin in Maryland, or that he did well in Baltimore.

Said Marks, "He really appeals to the people of Baltimore and Maryland. You really get a sense that he's for the working class, he's for people who need better jobs, he's for civil liberties, he's for bringing our troops home — a concern to a lot of families without as much money, whose children had to go fight in order to go to college. He stands for a lot that we need, especially in Baltimore."

Voter turnout was high in Maryland despite bad weather — high wind, freezing rain and black ice — which made getting to the polls a challenge for some.

A Maryland judge, in response, extended the polling period by 90 minutes. Polls closed at 9:30 instead of 8 to allow time for traffic to break up.

Maryland officials had estimated a 40 percent voter turnout for the state.

Polls indicate that over 745,000 votes were cast in the Democratic primary, and over 281,000 votes were cast in the Republican primary.

Obama and McCain swept the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. primaries for the Democrats and Republicans respectively on Tuesday.

For McCain, this meant a return to form after a number of victories last weekend by former Gov. Mike Huckabee (R- McCain has achieved frontrunner status in the Republican race; currently, McCain has 821 delegates to Huckabee's 241.

In Maryland, McCaigarned 55 percent of the Republican vote; Huckabee followed with 29 percent. The remaining votes were split between Ron Paul, the third remaining Republican candidate, and former governor Mitt Romney and former mayor Rudy Giuliani, both of whom have dropped out of the race.

While the Republican race has been declared a sure thing for Sen. McCain by most, the outcome of the Democratic race is far from certain.

While Hillary Clinton was leading in delegates following Super Tuesday, she has since fallen behind; of the eight primaries that have been held since then, she has won none, receiving in all cases less than 45 percent of the vote, in many cases significantly so.

Obama's eight-state winning sweep has prompted much discussion of whether he might prove, in the next several months, to be the new Democratic frontrunner.

After Tuesday's primaries, poll results suggest that Obama's grip on certain demographics has grown stronger since Super Tuesday. In Tuesday's primaries, Obama won majorities of voters



A rally for senator Barack Obama at the First Mariner Arena in downtown Baltimore drew more than 10,000 supporters.

under 30, voters over 65, and rural voters.

According to exit polls in Maryland and Virginia, he may have won as many as six out of 10 female voters as well, a significant blow to the Clinton camp.

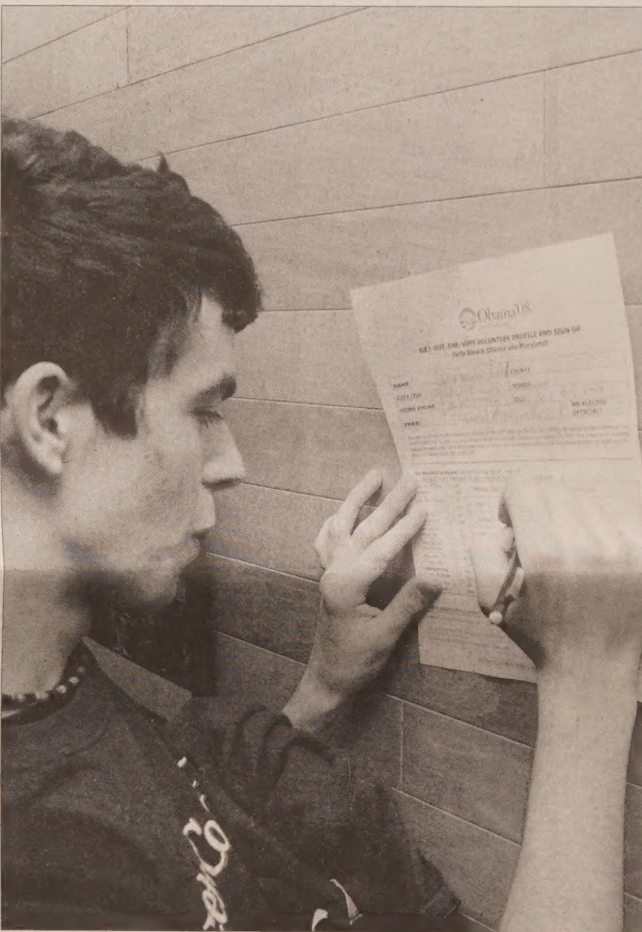
Obama won Maryland with 60 percent of the vote. Clinton garnered 38 percent.

Clinton's focus at present seems to have shifted towards Texas, where she has been campaigning extensively, and many of her hopes for the future of the race lie in that direction, as well as in April's Pennsylvania primary.

— Additional reporting by Farah Rahman and Ross Linker

Maryland Results			
Candidates	Votes	% of votes	Delegates
Obama	457,053	60%	14
Clinton	277,941	36%	10
Uncommitted	10,084	1%	
96% of precincts reporting			
McCain	160,574	55%	13
Huckabee	84,961	29%	0
Romney	18,255	6%	0
Ron Paul	17,355	6%	0
96% of precincts reporting			

MATT HANSEN/GRAPHICS EDITOR



Following Käl Penn's speech, freshman Shane Steinert-Threlked decided to volunteer his time to Students for Obama and canvass for the presidential nominee.

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### ERRATA

In the Feb. 7 issue, Natachi Chukumerije's name was spelled incorrectly on page A10.

The News-Letter regrets this error.

### CLASSIFIEDS

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# Homewood the site of regional STAND conference

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

A national anti-genocide group held its regional conference at Homewood over the weekend. Members hoped that holding it at Hopkins would make the University consider divesting from Sudan.

Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) sponsor six regional conferences every year in order to gather high school and college students who actively pursue anti-genocide activism, awareness education and divestment policies.

After arriving at GW in August, Knapp was approached by several students passionate about the idea of divesting from Sudan.

"I share their deep concern about the tragic situation in Darfur and am glad that they are seeking ways to address it," he said, adding that he hoped to have the investment analysis completed by the spring.

Martel emphasized the need for Hopkins to hire an independent analyst to review its holdings and show that there are no investments in Sudan and said that if the University refused to do so, "they are being dismissive and not taking such an urgent matter seriously."

"I have asked senior administrators at GW to look into the question of socially responsible global investment and to explore the development of a policy that would follow best practices in working with the investment managers of global funds regarding environmental, social and governance issues," Knapp said.

After four years, the genocide in Sudan is still ongoing. Over 400,000 have been killed and millions displaced.

Redding said it is "easy to get burned out" when trying to make a change in the face of something so overwhelming.

"I think that we were all sort of suffering from Darfur fatigue, and we were all getting burned out, and when we came to this

conference there was so much heart and so much passion," said Cherokee High School senior Lauren Romm, who drove down from New Jersey on Friday for the conference.

"I think it was just really inspiring to see how many people are in this and how we're making advances. It was nice to see how hard everyone was working on this," fellow Cherokee senior Kim Magaraci said.

"They're all so efficient. You forget that it's run by students," said Timber Creek High School sophomore Nia Holston, who also came to the conference from New Jersey.

Holston gave the closing speech for the conference, in which she called to fellow students not to become indifferent or get discouraged in the fight against genocide.

"JHU was chosen because of the dedication of its STAND members and its enthusiasm in holding the event," STAND Executive Student Director Scott Warren said.

The junior from Brown University began a chapter of STAND in 2004.

Warren led a successful divestment campaign at Brown and then got the state of Rhode Island to divest.

Under his leadership, STAND has grown to encompass over 700 high schools and institutions of higher education.

Hopkins was chosen as the location for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference due to the strength of its small but devoted chapter.

Anti-genocide activists at Hopkins have been closely involved with STAND since it began, and have been pushing the administration to help the cause by creating a formal divestment policy regarding companies in Sudan.

STAND's members try to push their governments to pay more attention to the crisis worldwide.

"What we really need is a per-



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Participants at the STAND conference discuss issues of genocide in Sudan.

manently established constituency," STAND Communications Coordinator Sean Redding said.

The sophomore from George Washington University said he was disappointed that governments have not done more to protect the Sudanese from the exterminations of villages throughout the Darfur region sanctioned by the Khartoum.

The keynote speech of the conference was delivered by Samantha Power, a journalist and anti-genocide activist who teaches at Harvard and has been working on Sen. Barack Obama's (D-Ill.) presidential campaign.

"We have an endangered species movement, but we don't have an endangered people's movement," Power said.

She noted that when the Rwandan genocide began in 1994, more protest was made about the endangered gorillas in the area than about the people who were being killed.

Power insisted that the United States must take responsibility for the welfare of the world's people in order to improve our international standing.

She pointed to growing anti-Americanism over issues such as the controversial interrogation procedures at Guantánamo Bay as concerns that Americans must

correct.

"We cannot do morality à la carte. We cannot be anti-genocide on Monday and for waterboarding on Tuesday," Power said.

"Our [international] standing has diminished. As citizens we have to do all that we can to ensure that our legitimacy and competence are restored."

Before the conference, STAND Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference Coordinator Adriane Alicea said that she expected the event would "give people a chance to learn a lot more about Darfur and hopefully join STAND."

The Hopkins freshman explained the aim of the conference was "to provide students with the tools they need in order to successfully advocate on behalf of the anti-genocide movement [and] examine exactly how to prevent future genocides from occurring."

Planning for the conference began in October. The next month Alicea began coordinating the program with officials from the Genocide Intervention Network, of which STAND is the student branch.

She had weekly conference calls with other coordinators around the country and spent the last two weeks finalizing speakers and travel plans.

# Senior class Council member impeached

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1  
greater scope of what they are doing.

"It's sad that we had to lose a member of the Council, but I have faith in the senior class decision. We have to respect that and respect the process. It's unfortunate that it happened, but it's sort of the reality. The Council depends on one another," executive board President Scott Bierbryer said.

The process for finding a replacement for Kuan was swift. The current Student Council constitution mandates only that the respective class council president appoint a replacement to fill the empty position.

In the past, most councils chose to undertake an open application process before appointing a new member, but Bierbryer is allowing the council to forego this process, according to Singh.

As such, the remaining members of the senior class council discussed several potential candidates in closed meetings before choosing Steve Dunay.

The senior was an active member of the Social Board during last semester, as Kuan's replacement.

"We felt that he had proved himself," Singh said.

Under the current constitution, there are two methods by which to carry out an impeachment.

The first, in which the class council must achieve a two-thirds vote amongst the six remaining members to suggest impeachment, was used in last week's proceedings.

Only five were present last week due to the absence of senior class council member Aaron Selikson.

The decision then went to the entire Student Council, which could have blocked the

impeachment with a four-fifths majority.

Finally, the decision to remove the defendant from office should go to closed council, where an undisclosed majority must vote to block it.

During the proceedings involved in last week's impeachment, none of these safeguards were put into action.

"I didn't know what to say because they came out with ridiculous claims," Kuan said.

"I probably could have stood up for myself better than I did, but I thought the general student council would understand that this was bull---. It is partially my fault for getting impeached in general but it was a bull--- situation in the first place," he said.

The second option for impeachment proceedings is less commonly used.

In this process, a majority of two-thirds of the entire council must vote in favor of impeachment.

The rest of the process is similar to the first method.

Under the possible new constitution, the impeachment process is simplified.

Two-thirds must vote in favor of impeachment in writing, and then the decision to remove the officer from his position goes on to debate and discussion by closed council.

"I think the impeachment process worked, but it's very cumbersome and its one of the problems with our current constitution. Instead of just going through one class, I think a better system may instead have included more support from the council at large," Bierbryer said.

"Senior class events are very important to them. I can understand how one destructive member can harm their efforts," Bierbryer added.

# The Johns Hopkins News-Letter



... Some things  
never change  
since 1896.

## Do You Have ASTHMA?

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University are looking for people with asthma to participate in clinical research studies. If you are interested, you will first be asked to participate in a screening study that will perform asthma and allergy testing to determine what asthma study you best qualify for. We are looking for people in good health, except for asthma or possible allergies. You need to be between 18 and 65 years old and need to be a **non-smoker of off cigarettes for at least 6 months**. The screening study will take up to 3 hours and you will be compensated up to \$60 for your time. Studies will be conducted at Johns Hopkins Bayview or School of Public Health on Wolf Street. For information contact

**Curt at 410-299-2429 or Kris at 410-955-2515**

Protocol WIRB 20021548P.I. Dr. Brown

## Research Volunteers Healthy Males Needed

Researchers at the Johns Hopkins Asthma and Allergy center at Bayview Medical Center are looking for Healthy Males, ages 18 to 50, that **do not suffer from Allergies or Asthma** to participate in a research study. As part of this study, we will perform allergy, nose, and lung testing. After you complete this study, you may be eligible to participate in current and future asthma and allergy studies that need healthy volunteers. All participants need to be non-smokers and in good health. This study will need up to three hours of your time. You will be compensated up to \$60 for your participation. For information, contact

**Curt at 410-299-2429 or Kris at 410-955-2515**

Protocol WIRB 20021548, P.I. Dr. Brown



NEWS & FEATURES

# Tea-rrific ways to increase your health

Valentine's Day gifts can be tricky, especially if your loved one doesn't like chocolate. But you know what everyone likes? Living healthy. That's where tea comes in.

There's such a variety to this healthy, hot drink — tea in a tea-pot, tea with tea bread, tea with biscuits, bubble tea, divined from tea leaves by Professor Trelawney ... the list goes on and on.

According to legend, tea was first discovered in China around 2700 B.C. Leaves, blown by the divine wind, fell into an herbalist's pot of hot water.

He tasted the brew and was so overcome by the fine flavor that he passed tea on to all his civilization.

There are four categories of tea that come from the plant *Camellia sinensis*.

Oolong tea consists of the raw leaves that have been sun-wilted and bruised to expose their juices to the air.

The leaves are partially oxidized, giving a rich flavor that falls somewhere between that of black and green teas.

Black tea is made from leaves that are allowed to oxidize much longer, giving them a strong, dark taste. Black tea retains its flavor longer than green tea and contains more caffeine.

Green tea is barely oxidized; the leaves are simply heated, rolled and dried.

Unlike the other three, white tea is not made from the tea plant leaves, but instead is made of the buds, which are dried or baked.

For the best health results, green and white teas are the way to go, because they are the least processed and highest in anti-

oxidants.

When it comes to choosing a hot beverage that will best feed your caffeine addiction, black tea isn't far behind coffee, with oolong, green and then white tea trailing behind.

A freshly cut tea leaf is mostly made up of water, but also includes other lovely goodies like catechin.

This tannin is found mainly in green teas because the oxidizing and fermenting process required in black and oolong teas reduces its presence.

One particular tannin, EGCG (epigallocatechin gallate), is an exceptionally powerful anti-oxidant. Its activity helps protect the body from damage by dangerous free radicals.

For you non-science majors, free radicals are harmful to the body because they steal electrons from other molecules in order to stabilize themselves.

This in turn damages the molecules they've stolen from, generally leaving the cell vulnerable to cancer.

Tea catechins can help inhibit cancer growth. According to the National Cancer Institute, catechins from tea "scavenge oxidants before cell injuries occur, reduce the incidence and size of chemically induced tumors and inhibit the growth of tumor cells."

Although laboratory studies with mice have shown that tea reduces the presence of chemically induced tumors, human studies have been as far inconclusive, due to immeasurable environmental factors.

While foods such as strawberries and chocolate also have helpful catechins, the benefits of tea don't stop there.



MATT HANSEN/GRAPHICS EDITOR

In a study published in 2002 by the American Heart Association, tea drinkers that drank two or more cups of tea a day had a 44 percent lower death rate following a heart attack, compared with nondrinkers.

Tea lowers bad cholesterol, which then helps to lower the chances of abnormal blood clot formation, thus lowering the rates of heart disease and attack.

And it appears that with the more cups you drink, the more health benefits you receive.

In a study published in 2006 by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, participants that drank more than five cups of tea daily had a 26 percent lower death rate from cardiovascular disease, and a 16 percent lower risk of dying from any cause.

Catechin not only protects the body from liberated extremists and myocardial infarctions, but

also helps relax arteries by producing nitric oxide, which causes the arteries to dilate.

So it seems you can't really go wrong with drinking tea — except, perhaps, if you like to add a little milk. A recent study revealed that milk proteins known as caseins lower the catechin concentration in tea.

However, this study was small and it is difficult to assess the effect of innumerable foods on tea. Thus, let us assume that a little splash of cow juice cannot negate the rest of tea's benefits.

So try some tea. Tea is healthy, tea is good, tea is great, and Professor Trelawney would be thrilled.

Lisa Ely is a junior biophysics major from Rockville, Md. She can be reached at [lisa.ely@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:lisa.ely@jhunewsletter.com).

# In fashion, the States just don't make the cut

Arriving in Montreal on New Year's Eve, I was saddened to find out that not only were all major malls and shopping districts closed on New Year's Day (not so in Toronto) but that they were strangely closed on the day after as well.

I did, however, manage to hit the local mall for a couple hours before departing again for Toronto.

When I first arrived in Baltimore and was on my way to go dorm room shopping I was surprised by the malls. As large a mall as Towson Town Center is, it carried astonishingly few important brand names, or at least what I consider to be important. Stores of European descent such as Mexx, Le Chateau and Zara were virtually nonexistent in this power mall.

Instead they were replaced by American labels as J. Crew, Hollister and A&F. I could no longer find the petit, slim clothing to fit my small Eurasian body.

Since then I've been eager to do some real shopping in Montreal, a city where you can find virtually anything. The sheer abundance of stores and styles is notable in itself (hence my anger at everything being closed).

Take Towson's H&M; its selection of clothing is relatively narrow and conservative, slimmed down to American tastes. An H&M in Toronto or Montreal, however, carries the same styles

as Towson's, plus more. It includes more selections and newly released collections.

Sometime within the past year, famed designer, Roberto Cavalli collaborated with H&M to design a line of clothing to be sold in H&M stores under his name. This much sought-after line was unseen in Towson but available in Toronto's Eaton Centre. Cavalli's line was so highly anticipated that when it was released, some entrepreneurial shoppers raided the racks and grabbed merchandise by the handful and began offering to hand out pieces to other customers for \$20, much to the dismay of store managers. Yet even after this commotion, I never saw sign of the line becoming available in Towson.

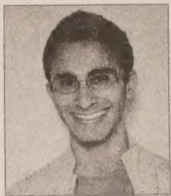
Americans prefer to keep to their UGG boots, Ralph Lauren Polo golf shirts and California-style beach clothing. While outgoing and aggressive in foreign policy, it seems the friendly Americans south of my home border are conservative in their clothing. This is, of course, from the perspective of a foreigner, and I feel this qualifies my opinions, keeping them from bias.

In contrast, the city of Montreal is very fashion forward and European. The French Canadians are self-aware and edgy, qualities that reflect within their personalities and clothing.

Furthermore, a pair of pajamas I purchased on final sale in a Toronto H&M a year ago are currently (or at last glance were) being sold at full price in Towson. This notion of fashion geography is important to keep in mind when travels arise. Do not be shy to make a purchase of something quirky you find in Barcelona because it make as well just turn into the hottest fashion next season, and you will have missed an opportunity.

Though still a bit early to detect spring trends, as I continue to roam the Montreal mall, I was able to distinguish one simple idea. I noticed a very large spectrum of colors, ranging from banana yellow to mango orange to blueberry blue. And though dressing like fruits probably will not be in style this spring, dressing in tasteful selections of colors certainly will be.

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Siavash Raigani  
Hop Couture

# Baltimore Restaurant Week brings dining deals, but are they worth it?

Welcome to the world of Restaurant Week. From Jan. 28 to Feb. 3, certain city restaurants only charge \$30 for a three-course meal. Sounds like a great deal, right?

The truth of the matter is, among the 80-plus restaurants that participated in this winter's culinary affair, there were only a handful of notable contestants.

Before you fall into the trap of thinking that dining out for under \$40, especially at one of Baltimore's most highly visited restaurant destinations, is an opportunity not to be missed, think about what really makes going out to eat worthwhile for you.

Whether you are an obsessive gourmand or an insatiable glutton, each customer's personal hierarchy of dining priorities should determine if Restaurant Week is the right fit for you.

Either way, make sure to research the establishments that you are interested in trying, and you'll not only save money, but your taste buds too from a potentially disappointing dinner.

Carleigh Connelly  
D.I.S.H.

Although I love a multi-course meal, I steered away from the unimpressive set menu and focused on one of the more creatively prepared dishes, striving for a more exciting meal.

Unfortunately, not even Dijon mustard and smoked honey butter could mask the overwhelmingly musty flavor of the mahi-mahi, but at least a perfectly crisp side of hash brown potatoes granted a few satisfying bites among a plateful of duds.

Despite the mediocre cuisine, a proper and unpretentious wait staff, in addition to the dead-on view of Baltimore harbor made for a pleasant, but overall forgettable evening.

## ROY'S

Roy's has repeatedly been awarded high marks by the Zagat Survey for its polished service and exciting atmosphere. Chef Yamaguchi is renown for his innovative twists on premium seafood and use of fusion to create mouth-watering meals.

Learning all of this made Roy's a no-brainer choice for Restaurant Week.

Although eating at a national chain, particularly after the second-rate fare at McCormick & Schmick's, could have easily resulted in another franchise dining failure, it was clear by the end of the evening that Roy's lauded reputation is well deserved.

Mouth-watering selections from their prix fixe menu included grilled tiger shrimp with shittake mushroom risotto, and honey mustard char-broiled beef short ribs plated with a beurre blanc sauce. These dishes were perfectly portioned with exceptional flavor.

Service was strong and at times slightly overbearing, but overall, the staff's attentive attitude established an exceptional experience that would even be worth a larger bill now that this year's

Restaurant Week has passed.

## TSUNAMI

Like Roy's fusion fare, Tsunami offers contemporary interpretations of pan-Asian dishes in a sleek, lounge-like setting just east of Fells Point.

Incredibly fresh Hosomaki rolls and decadent dinner entrees help Tsunami to push Baltimore's Asian dining scene to a new level of creativity and quality.

Highlights include brown butter roasted monkfish with apple-wood bacon, sweet potato pancake and yuzu lime-passion fruit coulis and mustard miso glazed salmon with braised leeks.

Unfortunately, Tsunami's appetizing menu was tainted by less than appealing service. Not only was our waiter uninformed about the menu, but he was also unaccommodating and stubborn to adjust a dish to meet a vegetarian customer's simple requests.

Points continued to drop when entrees arrived lukewarm and proper silverware was not given until half way through the meal.

Although the staff's attitude left much to be desired, keep in



FILE PHOTO

Despite Restaurant Week deals, our columnist was unimpressed with McCormick & Schmick's food.

mind that the establishment is less than two months old and still needs some time to stand up on its restaurant legs.

It takes a lot to be outstanding in the food industry, but hopefully Tsunami inherits the winning formula of success of its sister eatery in Annapolis. If it does, you better check out this hot spot now before reservations become more difficult to come by than a real dining deal during restaurant week!

Carleigh Connelly can be reached at [carleigh.connelly@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:carleigh.connelly@jhunewsletter.com)

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## MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S

Location: 711 Eastern Ave.  
Phone: (410) 234-1300.  
Prices: Moderate  
Lunch Hours: Mon - Sun 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Dinner Hours: Sun - Thurs 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.  
Fri & Sat - 3:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

## ROY'S

Location: 720 Aliceanna St.  
Phone: (410) 659-0099  
Prices: Moderate  
Week Hours: Mon - Thurs 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Weekend Hours Fri - Sat 5:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Sunday 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

## TSUNAMI

Location: 1300 Bank St.  
Phone: (410) 327-1370  
Prices: Moderate  
Week Hours: Mon - Fri 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.  
Weekend Hours Sat - Sun 5:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.



THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

First, do no harm

Among the many creeds to which medical institutions must adhere, one is fairly simple: Do no harm. Inevitably, this directive tends to become somewhat muddled once the myriad complicating factors arise, but the spirit itself should remain at the heart of everything our medical professionals do. It should be no different when animals are involved.

The debate over whether animal testing is scientifically necessary or ethically justifiable is colored by passion and moral ambiguity on both sides, and consensus seems elusive at best. But there seems to be at least one point on which both the defenders of animal welfare and reasonable medical practitioners can agree: Live animals should not be used for purely educational purposes.

For this reason, nearly every medical school in the country has abandoned the archaic and unnecessary practice of using live pigs as practice subjects for surgical students in training. And yet, the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine is one of just a handful of institutions that refuse to join this broad professional consensus and discontinue a practice that most of their peers consider outdated and cruel.

It's true that pigs are neither as intelligent nor as rational as human beings, but certainly they are no less immune to pain and no less interested in their own well being than we are. Killing them needlessly or causing them pain — and the practice is truly needless — is both unethical and inhumane.

Here's how it works: The pigs are supplied

to the medical school for the express purpose of surgical training. They are terminally anaesthetized before third-year medical students cut into them, performing various mock surgeries without regard for the health of the pig. The animals are then euthanized and discarded once the surgery is done.

To most physicians, this practice is senseless, unnecessary and cruel. The vast majority of medical schools use human cadavers or simulators instead, which most medical professionals feel is a more accurate rehearsal for the experience of operating on human patients.

Animal vivisection was once considered the best and most reliable method of learning about our own anatomy, just as bloodletting by the application of leeches was thought to cure various diseases. Modern advances in technology and medical science have rendered both of these practices obsolete, and to continue their use purely out of a stubborn allegiance to tradition is cruel and ethically indefensible.

Today, 116 of the nation's 126 medical schools have abandoned the practice of operating on live pigs purely for the purpose of education, and we call on the School of Medicine to do the same immediately. Hopkins is in a small minority of medical institutions that continue to engage in a practice that is both unethical and of little scientific value.

We urge the school to stop killing animals needlessly — doing so would be a significant step toward living out the physicians' most basic creed.

StuCo polices itself

Last week the general Student Council impeached a member of the senior class council. Supporters of the impeachment cited the student's habitual neglect of duties and the widespread corroboration of this sentiment suggests that this was a legitimate claim.

The Council, as the representative of the entire student body, is worth only as much as the quality of its members. Therefore, we support the Council's assertiveness in attempting to create a better, more efficient organization. Students expect the Council to police itself in order to make sure that its members are living up to their responsibilities. This action, while unfortunate, is commendable for its insistence on professionalism.

However, there are problems with both how the impeachment process unfolded and how a successor was chosen. While the student was given ample warning as to the potential consequences of his *laissez-faire* attitude towards his duties as a Council member, there was a certain lacking in necessary formalities. Of course we do not endorse formality for its own sake, but rather to make the process more fair and transparent.

When the Student Council wishes to impeach

one of its members, a written complaint should be given to the Council member airing specific grievances well before the date of the impeachment hearing so that he or she will have sufficient time to prepare a defense.

The replacement process is also disturbingly casual. Under the current system the class president is responsible for selecting a replacement if an impeachment occurs.

We recommend that the Council drop this practice and make the replacement process more rigorous and inclusive in order to ensure the position is given to the best candidate available.

This could happen through either a special election or, if this is not logistically possible, an application process open to the entire student body in which all Council members have the opportunity to question and then vote on the candidates.

The Student Council must have provisions that ensure that its members are fulfilling their obligations as student representatives and that there are means to replace members who are failing to do so. However, it should never be forgotten that any such measures must be fair and transparent.

Green entrepreneurship

The students working to bring the Sustainability Revolving Loan Fund to Hopkins should be commended for their current efforts to make the University more environmentally sound.

Often initiatives and programs that are intended to make this campus green get lost in the bureaucratic process. It can take years for such projects to take effect if they ever do at all, and by then, in more ways than one, the energy is gone.

This initiative, however, has the potential to be different. The students backing it recognize the urgency of the moment.

Many people fail to realize that so much energy (and money) can be saved by such seemingly small measures such as changing toilets, light bulbs and outlets. This plan mobilizes students to reform Hopkins by abandoning the archaic and wasteful methods of the past century and move towards a greener campus.

Other campuses, such as Harvard and Berkeley, have spearheaded such green reforms. These reforms have been in action since 2000. It is unfortunate that Hopkins rejected this proposal in the past.

This program to increase environmental reform is back and is now led by students. On Tuesday this initiative is coming before the Student Council to get the approval of the student representatives on campus. Council members should vote yes for this initiative because it is their obligation to force Hopkins to move forward on this issue.

Facing the challenges that come with wasting energy, including throwing away money while contributing to global climate change, is

a critical issue that we all must address. Inaction makes us all complicit in effecting the results. However, it is not enough for the Council to merely vote "yes" or "no" on this issue.

Far too often, similar initiatives, whether related to climate change, race relations or genocide, gone in front of the Council, have been voted on and then forgotten. Historically the Council has been an inactive body. This page calls on the Council to make sure that this legislative session is not like those of the past.

The Council should aggressively follow through with this initiative. Just sending a letter to the administration is not enough. They should provide the resources necessary to accelerate the initiative's approval.

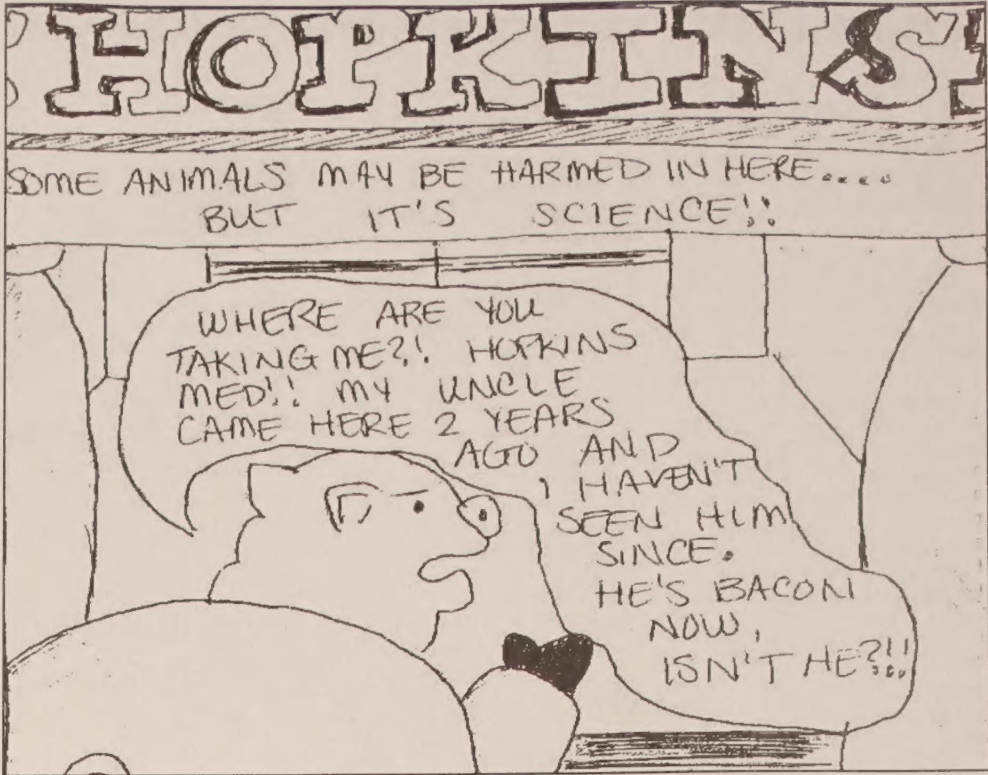
Specifically, certain members should take up this initiative as their personal project. Building on that, a Council liaison should be appointed to lobby the administration to accept this revolving loan fund.

Hopkins cannot be allowed to let this opportunity to slip through our fingers yet another time. This fund would not be expensive. It's self-sustaining and saves the University money in the end.

Finally, if the University appears to be stalling in either their acceptance or execution of this initiative, the Council must push the administration and ask serious questions about why the process is not moving faster. If the University continues its negligence the Council must call this inaction to the attention of the student body.

Only together can the University, the Student Council and the student body reform this campus so that it is more environmentally sensitive. The change must happen now.

Natachi Chukumerije



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic Church is more than some think

Steve Iannelli's recent column, a commentary on a supposed vendetta of the Catholic church against the book *The Golden Compass*, was based on spurious facts.

Of the quotations he supplied, one cited from "the church" was actually from a British non-Catholic. Another from "Philadelphia area Catholic leaders" was from a local news anchor. The rest were from Bill Donahue, an isolated Catholic layman

not officially affiliated with the U.S. bishops.

Iannelli also fails to mention that *The Golden Compass* may contain some specifically anti-Catholic material. Would it then be surprising that a few Catholic parents and teachers would worry? Curiously, after *The Golden Compass* movie came out, the U.S. bishops released a review on their Web site which spoke highly of the film. The review was eventually removed, probably because of complaints for the perfectly unsurprising reason I have suggested.

Does this really constitute the book-burning madness Iannelli would have us believe is going on? He then says that U.S. Ca-

tholicism is on a slow but steady decline. True, but it's bound to rise again because of the immigration boom from Latin America.

One also has to remember that American Catholics are 6 percent of the Church. The Catholic population of the world is on a steady rise, right about at the overall growth rate. Iannelli nevertheless informs us that "secular society will ultimately draw the aging institution into obscurity." And why was this? Because it's not encouraging American children to read a trendy book? Sharp logic there, Steve.

— Timothy Dolch

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to [News.Letter@jhu.edu](mailto:News.Letter@jhu.edu) for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and cannot be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Gatehouse

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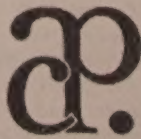
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# OPINIONS

*With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.*

## The separation of church and discourse

By STEVE IANNELLI

There exists a barrier in the area of civil discourse. A “wall,” if you will, between that which can be discussed, and that which is off limits. Ask anyone about health care, the war in Iraq or immigration, and they’ll probably give you a detailed description of their beliefs. But ask people about their religion, and the response is different.

Ask someone how they feel about the virgin birth of Jesus. No, *really* ask them. Go up to your friend and say, “Hey Timmy, do you *really* think that the first woman came from some guy’s rib? Hey Ashraf, are you aware that the word ‘Islam’ means *submission*? Doesn’t this bother you? Hey Joshua, do you really think it’s such a great idea to resettlement Israel so that everyone except your people can be *eliminated from existence*?”

Any reasonable person would be taken aghast at such open challenges to faith. But, why? Most would say that these are personal beliefs. It’s just not right to question someone’s religious beliefs. It’s offensive.

Now ask *yourself*, who are you afraid of offending? What lines have been crossed? Are we not all so quick to attack each others’ historical, political, scientific or social beliefs? If someone asserted that the sun revolved around the Earth, people would laugh in his face.

However when someone makes a proclamation of faith, everyone bites their tongues. People try so hard not to insult someone’s religious beliefs, but once someone is a socialist, everyone grabs their pitchfork.

People need to open their minds and stop censoring themselves. It is a disgrace that certain American media refused to reproduce the Danish comics that caused such stir in the Islamic community.

It was taken for granted that no media source would want to incur the same wrath as the Danish. We are cowards to allow the Islamic community to get away with such intimidation.

A significant amount of people in our society still believes that intelligent design is an acceptable and scientific alternative to evolution. It’s somehow understood that enough people support the idea of creationism that it perhaps should be taught in schools. It is the media’s job to challenge this presumption.

People have argued that religion is a “personal zone” into which public discourse should not intrude. But the Sept. 11 hijackers practiced their twisted version of their religion in a *personal* environment when they boarded several planes and killed almost three thousand American citizens.

The Vatican is not keeping its sexual beliefs *personal* while its outspoken condemnation of contraception leads to thousands of AIDS related deaths each day in Africa. Radical Evangelical proliferers keep their beliefs *personal* when they bomb abortion clinics and kill doctors.

When such religious groups claim to be “guided by God” or to “save future babies by doing the right thing,” the issue is not private. Surely \$13 million of damage caused by bombings, arson and shootings are not a *personal* way to express the “right thing” to do.

Faith is considered necessary for society, and any challenge to it is deemed rude and offensive. This notion is misguided. People need to realize that morality exists without divine supervision. Good deeds can take place without divine permission. Secular society needs to take a verbal stand against the violence and nonsense that radical (and sometimes even moderate) religions are forcing upon our institutions.

According to a recent poll, 97 percent of Americans would gladly vote for a qualified woman or black person for president, but only 49 percent would consider an atheist. This is an utter disgrace.

We need to free ourselves from this idea that we should be afraid to insult religion. Everyone should be equally as proud to exercise their freedom of speech as vehemently as possible. No one should object to their duty as a citizen to fight against censorship, irrationalism, racism, sexism, child abuse, senseless discrimination and genocide.

Many elements of the world religions, fundamentalist and moderate alike, are undermining our core principles of freedom and equality. Their encroachment upon our scientific, educational and governmental institutions goes uncontested, and their effect will be drastic if they are not engaged with honest, objective and secular opposition.

*Steve Iannelli is a junior mechanical engineering major from Silicon Valley, Calif.*

## Weddings, botox and strapless princess dresses

By WHITNEY SHAFFER, BETH SODERBERG and LAUREN HILL

A few weekends ago, I went where few college students should ever go: the 2008 Baltimore Bridal Expo. This trip was not a result of my or my friend’s impending marriage, so everyone breathe easy. My best friend from high school is a Women and Gender Studies Major at American University, and is doing her senior project on the wedding industry, so our involvement was purely academic. Nevertheless, the experience went beyond academic engagement (no pun intended), triggering a good bit of confusion.

The Expo took place on the third floor of the Baltimore Convention Center, right above a cheerleading competition. After signing in at a ticket booth that reminded me of a booth found at a carnival, we walked past a large pile of heart shaped “bride-to-be” pins and into an area filled with vendors all ready to cater to the ideal day that leads to ideal happiness.

Before attending, my idea of the expo involved a collection of bakers, florists and wedding dress makers. In fact, dresses had the least to do with it. There was only one vendor devoted to white silk and lace, but there were multiple vendors selling dental caps, real estate and airbrush makeup. The expo became less about the event itself and the lifestyle that surrounds the “Marital Super Bowl” (as someone described it to me). When approached that way, the wedding isn’t only a symbolic ritual of transition it is a physical passing, an entrance to a tangibly new way of life.

As part of her process, my friend has bought a pseudo-engagement ring, so she could interact with vendors in an immersive way. As such, I assumed the role of maid-of-honor in order to add another dimension of observation. If I mentioned

to a salesperson that I was a maid-of-honor, I was simultaneously revered and pitied. One person even bowed to me. It seems as though I had more purchasing power than even the bride, given my position as confidant, advisor and basically second-in-command. Vendors shared their top of the line material with me, willingly doling out DVDs that my bride friend wasn’t offered, encouraging me to convince my bride to up her wedding costs. I was told that it was my responsibility to ensure the bride’s happiness, so I should make sure to go with the invitations with heavier card stock.

Here are over a hundred people telling me that it is my feminine duty to plan a perfect day (or in this case, the bride’s perfect day). There were references to respecting the man (for instance, congratulating the few guys at the expo on the day of the Super Bowl), but mostly this was a woman’s world, where purchasing power was in our hands.

Despite the fact that the things being shoved at me included polyester lace, processed sugar and stripper poles (don’t ask), I couldn’t help but wonder if this was some sort of perverted version of “feminism,” where decisions could be made by women and they could assert their opinions and tastes.

Then I remembered that it was businesses telling me this, specifically in a context whose history extends back to the inclusion of a dowry. Then I felt better about myself, for not completely falling for the whole wedding thing. Don’t get me



LAUREN SCHWARTZMAN/GRAPHICS STAFF

wrong, I can appreciate the feelings and joy that surrounds the idea of a wedding. I think I just resent the mass marketing and homogeneity emphasized by businesses.

Then, this weekend, I was speaking about my experience to a friend, and we together wondered who is at fault for this overwhelming industry. Her position, was that the wedding industry is a product of traditional desires that is stoked and transformed by the demands of women. It’s as though the bacteria of tradition get some sugar of commerce and run wild. The idea is that this monster is built off of the basic supply/demand relationship, where I’m not so sure that we women are totally responsible for this mess.

While a person can be very sensible, people tend to be easily persuaded, and

I think that the wedding industry preys on the social group-think produced by a wedding culture. Businesses seemingly unrelated to the wedding ritual (see: botox for the mother of the bride) create a giant web in which almost any self-respecting woman can get caught. I can accept that we as women are culpable for creating the million options in strapless princess dresses, but I’m not entirely sure if we’re equally as responsible for the message that our beauty is never enough.

*Whitney Shaffer is a senior art history major from Lansdale, Pa. Beth Soderberg is a senior Women and Gender Studies major from Lansdale, Pa. Lauren Hill is a public health major from Madison, Wisc.*

## Black Americans need their own party

By DYLAN DIGGS

When going to the Obama rally in downtown Baltimore this past Monday, I saw the excitement on the faces of so many supporters. Even I, a black Republican, was slightly moved by this monumental moment, seeing Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) as the first black politician with a reasonable chance at the oval office.

At least politically Obama’s candidacy, and his success in red states, may indicate that blacks have reached a level of real equity with whites, but the story is more complicated than that. The success of a dark candidate has shed light on much of the situation of American race relations, both good and bad.

If one looks deeper into Obama’s candidacy, the significance of this moment seems a bit dimmer.

For one Obama is not the traditional black American. He is half-white, after all, and his father was Kenyan. Black Americans have about as much in common with Kenyans as they do with Koreans.

What may be more disturbing is that Obama, intelligent and affable as he may be, would be the least-experienced president to be elected to the presidency

in American history. The only president who comes even close to such a record is Abraham Lincoln, who was a founding leader of the Republican Party for a significant period time. Lincoln’s experience is more akin to Reagan being a founding leader of the conservative movement than Obama, for the past year, being a leader of the ... hope movement.

The fact that the first black president could be so experienced suggests that there have not been many blacks in the position to build the resumé to be president. However it might say more about the Democratic Party than American society as a whole. It is hard to say that prominent black Republicans, such as Secretaries of State Colin Powell or Condoleezza Rice, do not have enough experience to be president. The highest a black could get in the Clinton Administration was as the Secretary of Commerce.

Perhaps the Democratic Party is not as racially inspired as the Democratic leadership espouses. Sure, blacks consistently vote Democratic, but that has turned to hurt black Americans more than help them. When 90 percent of blacks vote Democratic, much of the Democratic elite see blacks as an assured vote and thus realize they don’t have to do much to appease blacks.

This puts black Americans firmly between a rock and a hard place. For most blacks, Republicans aren’t any bet-

ter than Democrats. Blacks are partly to blame for this, after all. If they are consistently voting Democrat, there’s no incentive for Republicans to woo them. When Republicans put black candidates up for state-wide election (such as in 2006) they are rejected by blacks.

That is why black Americans are so excited about the Obama candidacy: The thought of a candidate who might actually pay more than lip service to black issues is enticing. But the recent presidential nomination contest seems to have brought to fore much of the tensions between blacks and whites in the Democratic Party, most notably in South Carolina. Also, the failure to help blacks in traditionally white states, such as Louisiana and here in Maryland, shows how little has been achieved by black commitment to Democrats.

So what is the answer for black Americans? A National Black Party. This is not a ridiculous idea. Younger blacks are registering more as independents than in the past. Also, black populations tend to be more socially conservative and take a harder line on immigration than the traditional Democratic line, while remaining economically populist and pro-affirmative action. An articulate policy could be formed.

There are also a number of very good, moderate, bright and charismatic black leaders who could form such a new par-

ty, including Harold Ford (D-Tenn.), Michael Steele (R-Md.), J.C. Watts (R-Okla.), the Congressional Black Caucus and two former secretaries of state — not to mention Obama. Moreover, the moderate elements within the party would prevent it from threatening and alienating whites.

This National Black Party would not necessarily marginalize the black vote. Nationally and in a number of states, this party could work much the way the Kurdish parties do in the Iraqi Parliament by building coalitions. The NBP could form a coalition with the Democratic Party in Congress for example, but retain its independence. Simply the threat of mobility would keep the Democrats from ignoring blacks.

More importantly, the party could locally make a large difference by building a strong base in urban areas, such as Baltimore or even winning the plurality in states such as South Carolina and Georgia. These local leaders would no longer be the type owing their political success to their white higher-ups.

A National Black Party would not get all blacks to join its ranks. Many black Democrats and the few black Republicans may remain with their broad parties. However it is something to consider and possibly something Democrats should fear if serious blows continue to fly in this current campaign.

## Democratic tides

But all of this ... who really cares? If it wasn’t for CNN unceasingly bashing this crap into our skulls with Wolfman Blitzkrieg and Larry the King — probably the most fearsome tag team since the Legion of Doom — this would pass along without us having to agonize over whether or not Hillary really meant to cry or not. That is unless, of course, you prefer MSNBC or Fox News, in which case you can make up your own WWF references. But heaven forbid we ever look beyond this and onto something with real relevance.

The way that this election is being covered by the media does nothing but obscure from our vision those things that actually matter. Personally, I do think there are some things going on here that do matter.

Let’s be honest for a minute, America, the leader of the free world; the heralded exporter of emancipation and noble agent of autonomy, the great distributor of democracy, the still reigning, undisputed heavyweight champion of the hegemonic world ... kinda’ sucks at democracy.

Our voter turnout is typically at the absolute bottom of all other developed democracies; an ever increasing percentage of people get their news primarily from comedy shows (and those who don’t typically go to the above men-

tioned smut peddlers); and the majority of people in this country probably can’t even name their representative in the House. Every fear about large government that was ever presented at the time of our founding and later expressed by onlookers of our political form has come to fruition. The apathy, lack of civic virtue and susceptibility to demagogues are all present and palpable.

Yet, every four years, it’s as though we are allowed a momentary reprieve from our democratic failures, and, for just an instant, everyone forgets about the fact that they really don’t give a crap. And, maybe it’s because I’m still young and idealistic, or maybe because I was too young to analyze and remember any previous presidential elections the way I can with this one, but I think I can smell something different in the air these days, even by comparison to previous election cycles (and no, it’s not Ron Paul trying to burn down the IRS).

Could it be, though, that Americans are so damned fed up with the results of their prior apathy that they’re actually willing to participate in their own governance? Maybe that’s too much to hope for, but maybe the record turnouts in caucuses and primaries all over the country really do mean something.

All I know is this, I talk to a lot of peo-

ple in my daily routine. I work two jobs, one of them as a glorified telemarketer at a law firm and the other as a bartender at the Hyatt (no you can’t come and get free drinks, and yes, I will gladly accept your tip money), so I interact with people from all over the state and country. Lately, I can’t go 10 seconds without getting drawn into a conversation on politics.

Now, I’m a guy who normally always likes to have a conversation regress into a political discussion, but honestly, if I have to explain my theory on McCain’s immigration dilemma one more time, I think I’m gonna reverse-immigrate to Mexico to get away from all this. I can’t take it anymore; on the flip side, it’s that good.

Right now, average folks have a lot of concerns, they have a lot of ideas, they’re pretty knowledgeable, and I think they actually care. So, perhaps any deviance from our prior, unfortunate political norm is a topic more deserving of news coverage than the price of a rich man’s haircut. Nonetheless, I don’t dare to speculate whether this will last even until the general election in November. Right now, I’m just happy I have a reason to be hopeful about the present current of our democratic tides.

*Michael Berman is a senior International Relations major from New Providence, N.J.*



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**Dinnertime  
Jazz Jam**

Tuesday • February 19th



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**WJHU {hopkins student radio}**

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Texas Hold'em • Thursday, February 21

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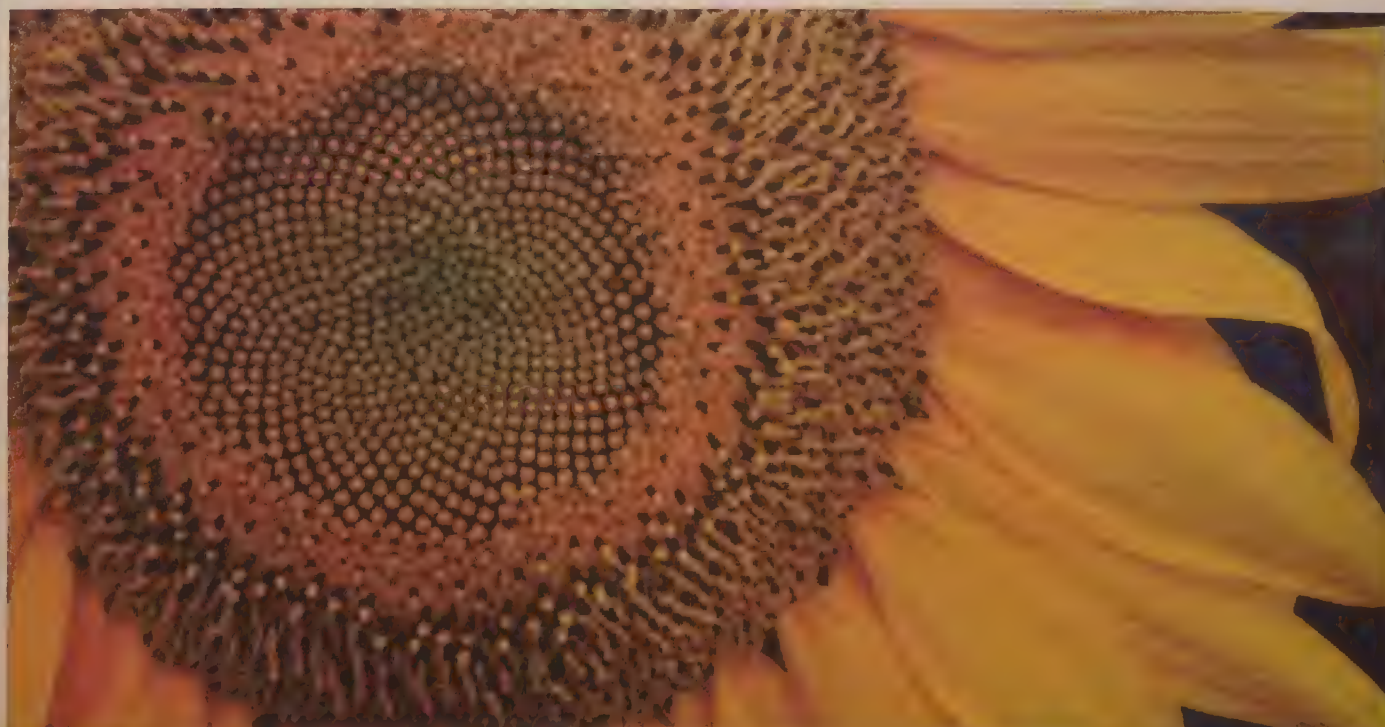
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# THE B SECTION

Arts & Entertainment • Science & Technology • Your News-Letter • Cartoons • Calendar • Sports

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

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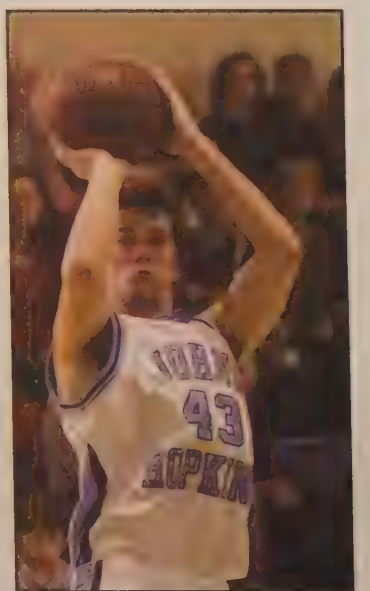
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discovery  
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to wield  
control  
over DNA  
in a way  
they never  
have before.

Read more  
in Science,  
B6

### INSIDE B SECTION



#### CALENDAR

• Colin Farrell emotes his way through a sleepy Belgian town in the critically acclaimed *In Bruges*, B2.

#### YOUR N-L

• A box of chocolates will only get you so far on **Valentine's Day**. Sometimes it takes sheer willpower, B8.

#### SPORTS

• Get all the **details** on a thrilling men's basketball game, B12.



# CALENDAR FEBRUARY 14-FEBRUARY 20

FEB  
14

## The Turn Of The Screw is sure to thrill

The Everyman Theatre, located on North Charles Street in Baltimore, is currently in the midst of its five-week production of Henry James's acclaimed novella *The Turn of the Screw*.

The show, which began its run on Jan. 16, tells the story of a governess hired by a mysterious, elusive man. Her job is simple: to care for his orphaned niece and nephew in Essex while he, their legal guardian, lives in London. After arriving and receiving the children into her charge (under one very unusual condition set by her boss), the governess gradually learns strange and unsettling facts about the history of the estate.

Appropriately so, she is the viewer's only eyes and ears through which to experience the setting, and as she begins to live through unexplainable occurrences herself, the audience is drawn in. Each one leads her to becoming more skeptical and afraid of the situation her job has produced for her.

The short ghost story was originally published in 1898 when James was 55 years old. It is a Gothic psychological thriller that has translated well from print to film and stage over the years, and is still often explored and critiqued even today. Since its publication, readers and critics have questioned the protagonist's reliability and thus the actual plot points of the story itself. A viewer of this play can expect to wrestle with the question of the governess's paranoia: Is it



COURTESY OF STAN BAROUH

Henry James's thrilling *The Turn of the Screw* is brought to life on the Everyman Theatre Stage from now until Feb. 24.

legitimate? Is it produced from real, material occurrences? Or, does she become a completely unreliable protagonist because of it? Has she led the audience astray from concrete fact and realism into a realm controlled only by the extreme mania she experiences?

As <http://www.BroadwayWorld.com> comments, *The Turn of the Screw* will leave its audiences with "a dash of fear, a large helping of tension ... [and] a brilliant shiver down the spine."

It is believed that the provocative story of *The Turn of the Screw* has gone on to influence other major productions in the entertainment industry, from television episodes of *Lost* and *CSI*,

to the 2001 movie *The Others*, to even certain storylines in the soap opera *Dark Shadows*.

The production's last showing at the Everyman will be on Feb. 24.

Starring in the Everyman Theatre production of the play is Megan Anderson. Anderson, winner of a Greater Baltimore Theatre Award, has appeared in such plays as *Proof*, *The Crucible*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *The Seagull* and *Othello*. She can also be seen in *The Wire*, the critically acclaimed HBO series set and produced in Baltimore.

Also starring in *The Turn of the Screw* is Bruce R. Nelson, a company member at Everyman. Nelson has performed in such

productions as *The Crucible*, *The School for Scandal*, *The Elephant Man* and *Dead Funny*. He is a two-time recipient of the Helen Hayes award (and a five-time nominee) and is a theater graduate of Towson University.

The production is directed by Donald Hicken, the head of the Baltimore School for the Arts's theatre department and previous director of such plays as *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Walk a Mile in My Drawers*.

For times and ticket information, visit <http://everyman-theatre.org> or call the Everyman Theatre box office at (410) 752-2208.

—Lauren Carney

## MOVIE OPENINGS

### In Bruges

Opening at the Charles Theatre  
Friday, Feb. 15

(410) 727-FILM or <http://www.thecharles.com> for showtimes

COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.PRECRITICAS.COM](http://WWW.PRECRITICAS.COM)

Writer/director McDonagh takes us on a killing funny trip to Bruges, a medieval city in Belgium. For hit men Ray (Colin Farrell) and Ken (Brendan Gleeson), it could be their final destination

## Campus Events

Thursday, Feb. 14

**11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Condom-grams for sale, sponsored by PEEPS**

In honor of Sexual Health Awareness Month, give someone you care about a Condom-gram for Valentine's Day by heading to the Barnes and Noble.

**7 p.m.-9 p.m. Audio Software: free DMC Workshop**

"Next Up: Audio Software," a free Digital Media Center workshop for faculty, staff and students, will be held in the DMC.

Friday, Feb. 15

**7 p.m. "The Vagina Monologues" at JHMI**

The Schools of Nursing, Medicine and Public Health present *The Vagina Monologues* at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 15 and 16 in the Turner Auditorium on the East Baltimore campus. Tickets are \$10.

Saturday, Feb. 16

**7:30 p.m. Cage: Conservatory**

**Avant-Garde Ensemble at Peabody**

Cage: Conservatory Avant-Garde Ensemble will perform contemporary music in Peabody's Griswold Hall. Admission is free, and for further details, go to <http://www.peabody.jhu.edu/events>

Sunday, Feb. 17

**11 a.m.-4 p.m. Hannah Arendt and the Exile of Writing**

The German and Romance Languages and Literature Department sponsors this symposium, which will feature Thomas Schestag (JHU/Frankfurt), Barbara Hahn (Vanderbilt, and Thomas Wild (Berlin). The symposium will feature different writing styles. Entrance is free to this event, which will take place in the Sherwood Room of Levering Hall.

**3 p.m. Hopkins Symphony "Cure for the Cabin Fever" Chamber Concert**

Warm up a cold winter afternoon with Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 1" and Bibergan's "Partita for Five Solo Instruments." Vladimir Lande conducts. The concert is free and will be held at the Interfaith Center.

## Local Events

Thursday, Feb. 14

**5 p.m.-9 p.m. Night of Passion at the BMA.**

Celebrate Valentine's Day at the BMA with "A Night of Passion." Enjoy romantic twilight tours of passionate art with 40-minute guided Romance Tours held consecutively at 5, 6 and 7 p.m. Make your loved one a Valentine's card or ornament by candlelight while sipping champagne in the Museum's elegant Fox Court. And delight in a special Aphrodisiac Dinner at Gertrude's (with a choice of three or four-course prix-fixe menus with delectable romance-inspired entrees). Per couple, entrance to non-members is \$20.

**8 p.m. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead.**

Center Stage hosts this month's show, Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, a spin-off on Hamlet's two bumbling messengers, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Visit <http://www.centerstage.org> for further dates and times, as well as ticketing information. Center Stage is located at 700

N. Calvert St.

Friday, Feb. 15

**8 p.m. BIG Cupid's Valentine's Show**

The Baltimore Improv Group has no idea what you'll see them do tonight — because you call the shots. BIG uses audience suggestions to spin off a hilarious web of miscommunications, bizarre word associations and witty double-entendres. They're hoping someone in the audience says "Cupid," though, because tonight they're thinking about love. The show is held at the Creative Alliance at the Patterson (3134 Patterson Ave.), and entrance is \$12 for non-members.

**9 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday Night Dance Party.**

To encourage you to go buck wild on Central's dance floor, all drinks are only \$1.75 from 9-11 p.m. Grand Central is located at 1001 N. Charles St.

Saturday, Feb. 16

**7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Federal Hill Fest-of-All.**

Celebrate all things Federal Hill at this fest-of-all, which

includes live music from Love Seed Mama Jump, a fashion show featuring Federal Hill retailers, a silent auction and a raffle. Buy tickets in advance to save \$15. An open-bar will be in full flux if you head to the Baltimore Museum of Industry at 1415 Key Highway

**9 p.m. Serj Tankian of System of a Down**

One of the most unconventional frontmen in rock, Serj Tankian, the voice of System of a Down, emerges as a solo artist with his debut album *Elect The Dead*. Tickets the day of are \$28, but for more information visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>

Sunday, Feb. 17

**4 p.m. School of Rock Baltimore.**

Come check out kids playing select songs from all four of this season's shows: Led Zeppelin, Arena Rock, '90s alternative and the Cowbell show. A few hundred people came out to each of the original performances in January. If you missed them, come see the highlights! Tickets are \$5. Visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more information.

Monday, Feb. 18

**7 p.m. Alfred Hitchcock Retrospective.**

Baltimore celebrates the man who redefined "thriller" — and

we don't mean Michael Jackson. Through June, the Charles screens a different Hitchcock film every week. Each film is shown three days per week. In total, 25 of Hitchcock's movies are screened, so clear your schedule. This Monday, 1944's *Lifeboat* is being screened. For a comprehensive list of all 25 movies and their showtimes, see the *Charles's Web site* at <http://www.thecharles.com>. Tickets are \$8 at night and \$6 on Saturday afternoons.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

**8 p.m. Guitar Hero Competition**

Contestants will play head-to-head PS2 Guitar Hero II, III and Rock The '80s games on the Otto-bar stage! 2-4-1 drinks all night, and there will be prizes. To sign up visit <http://www.myspace.com/ottobarguitarhero>

Wednesday, Feb. 20

**U2:3D**

If you're a U2 fanatic but can't wait for the next tour, the Maryland Science Center offers you a great alternative: Showing daily, U2:3D will give you a life-like experience of a live performance. Shot in South America during the "Vertigo" tour, Bono wanted to go somewhere magical with the creation of U2:3D. Visit <http://www.mdsci.org> for a complete list of showtimes and prices.

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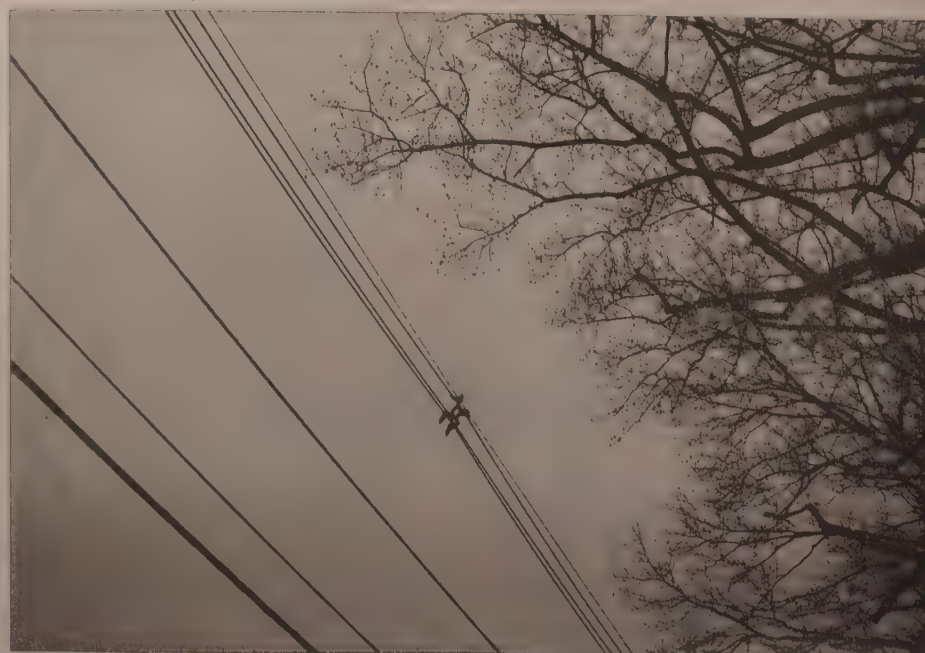
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## Exposure

By Francesca Pazniokas





# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## English prof. doubles as electronic musician

By JEN CHOI  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Professor Drew Daniel, who started his position as an assistant professor in the English department at Hopkins in the fall of 2007, is part of a band called "Matmos" with his partner, Martin Schmidt. Matmos is an experimental electronica duo; they have used sounds of amplified crayfish nerve, flesh burning, liposuction surgery, and many other sounds that wouldn't come to mind when one thinks of music. This offbeat style has garnered Matmos considerable fame and worked with Björk on a couple of her albums and tours. With five of their own albums out, music isn't the first word that comes to mind at first listen; yet, incredible versatility and originality pervades the tracks. The *News-Letter* spent some time with the members of Matmos to find out what's really behind all the craziness.

*News-Letter:* How did your band start?

Drew Daniel: Martin and I met in SF in the early '90s when he was a go-go dancer at a bar called club Uranus. We were both interested in noise music; I was into techno, and we just started to collaborate.

Martin Schmidt: I'm seven years older than he is, and it's amazing what a huge difference that can make in what music you pick up on. I didn't know anything about the world of rave and techno. I vaguely knew that it existed but I pretty much lived in this world of the late 1970s, sort of electronic music. And he turned me onto stuff that was going on right now, which in the early '90s, and I taught him about this old electronic music.

DD: We started to make pieces together in our bedroom studio. We take objects and make noises with them, and then cut up those



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Drew Daniel, Martin Schmidt and their band, Matmos, are known for their unusual "instruments" and dissonant sounds.

noises on computers and build them into rhythmic beads that were sort of like techno, but sort of life avant-garde composition. It was kind of a "half-way" music.

NL: Do you have personal musical training/background?

MS: None at all. I had piano lessons, when I was 12, which honestly was a big deal in the long run. By the time I was 28, computers became something that were in everyday people's lives, which was like in 1988 or '89, so I got a computer. They were insanely expensive back then, like \$5,000 for a basic computer. And I got one, and I sat down, and I was like, oh, I can type. I had no idea. I didn't go to college; it never came up. And it's the same with studying music. I had forgotten that I knew all my major and minor scales.

DD: Traditional music didn't really figure in the way we were approaching music, because we

would start by making noises with objects which may or may not have a pitch. And so you assemble those noises because of the shape you want the composition to have, but we weren't really losing a lot of sleep about dissonance.

NL: Where do you get the ideas of the inspiration to record such music?

MS: It's different from different things. We used to go on sound safaris; we would go out into the world and look for interesting sounds. And we went to this place called the Exploratorium in San Francisco, which was a children's science museum. It was pretty much built by crazy science hippies in the early '70s. We were like, "That would be a great place to record different sounds." Sure enough, they had this amazing display, where they had taken the nerve tissue of a crayfish and amplified it.

DD: They had converted the signal into a frequency, and it made this low base noise, which we sampled.

MS: The magic part came in

when we identified the sound in the liner notes. It wasn't even that amazing of a sound, except that it blows up in your imagination.

DD: In the case of the surgery, my father and step-mother are cosmetic surgeons, and sort of through them, I got contacts that led to recording surgeries. So for me, it was a very personal thing, to work with the sounds of the workplace of my parents. It was kind of a way of imagining what their life is like and kind of reconstructing it in a fantasy. I went and recorded chin implants, nose-jobs, liposuction, laser-eye surgery. It was difficult to do because I'm so squeamish. It was tough not to pass out. Sometimes, it can be a way of mastering something that frightens you. You record, and then you manipulate it, so you sort of work through it that way.

NL: On one of your older records, there is a piece called "Shenandoah." Is that a cover of the traditional American piece, "Shenandoah"?

MS: We did a bunch of work  
CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

## Matmos's concert boggles minds with experimentation

By ALEX BEGLEY  
Managing Editor

Who would have imagined that a Hopkins professor would moonlight as part of a popular electronic/performance art outfit that plays sold-out shows from coast to coast? I'd heard rumblings of Professor Drew Daniel and his band Matmos. There were rumors flying around campus that their music was composed of recordings of surgical sounds, bodily fluids and other bizarre effects. Most of the attendees at their Floristree show on Saturday arrived on the tails of similar rumors, driven by pure curiosity.

The show was thrown as a benefit for the Fifth Annual Transmodern Festival in April. The festival celebrates the outlandish and avant garde side of art with a massive list of shows including Anna Oxygen, Spoon Popkin and Katastrophe.

The benefit on Saturday was \$10 and sold \$2 cups of Resurrection, of which I had many. Matmos was set up onstage with an array of strange objects and a projection screen. Since the band migrated from San Francisco to Baltimore, a trail of stories has arrived in their wake. One of my friends talked about seeing them play a rat cage with a bow. Their Web site lists a

plethora of "instruments" including but not limited to amplified crayfish nerve tissue, the pages of bibles turning, liposuction surgery, chin implant surgery, contact microphones on human hair, violins, field recordings of conversations in hot tubs, Polish trains, insects, ukuleles, aspirin tablets hitting a drum kit from across the room and the sound

of a frozen stream thawing in the sun. I approached the show with a clean palate, having not listened to any of their music beforehand.

What I encountered in my hour at the Floristree was an entertaining show of complex music that was almost overshadowed by stage gimmicks. There were men beating trunks with bouquets of roses and the common ritual of sacrificing an audience member's coif to the devices of an electric razor taped to a microphone. Behind all of this though was music. Not dancy music, not really melodic, but noise that had a rhythm and a beat just the same. Their stream-of-consciousness lyrics broke through the noise during one song in what sounded like a "how to" guide to homosexuality. Psychedelic and often imperceptible images were projected behind them, yet one more factor that detracted from the music.

At one point a video was shown of someone being burned by a cigarette, a homage to the Germs, and as you watched the burn fester and swell you realized that the grunts of pain from the burn victim are making up the chorus of the song. It's scary and beautiful at the same time. It is noise art that works despite the visual distractions.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.BRAINWASHED.COM  
Matmos is notorious for their on-stage antics.

## Contemporary Museum offers exhibition on the art of light

By LAUREN LINKS  
News-Letter Staff Writer

If you like to be challenged in artistic encounters, you'll find your match at the Contemporary Art Museum's current exhibit *Double-Take: The Poetics of Illusion and Light*. An exhibit designed to highlight artists' play with light, shadow and perceptual illusions, *Double-Take* demands patience and effort from its viewers. In its standard gallery space, the exhibit includes the work of three artists: Alexandra A. Grant, Bernhard Hildebrandt (based in Baltimore) and Mary Temple (of Brooklyn).

While each offers a distinct style, the coherence of the exhibit is not as forthright as the curators purport. Introducing the exhibit, the curator's note remarks: "Visual slights of hand, the provocative doubling of meaning and images, and a poetic and refined aesthetic unites the artists in *Double-Take* creating a dialogue of seductive and richly-layered works." While tooting the typical hollow herald of critics' remarks, the description is not only overstating the intent of the exhibit, but nearly

misrepresents its coherence.

*Double-Take* certainly necessitates just that action, partly because at first glance, the artistic messages are not clearly conveyed, nor is their relevance to "poetic aesthetics." For Bernhard Hildebrandt, his work would succeed, were it not understood in the framework of the Contemporary's exhibit. His art work is technically complex, as he utilizes video installation, prints of digital photography and video manipulation of photographic prints. His pieces, however, lack the subtle, poetic expression suggested. They also fail to capture aesthetic qualities of their subject, such as the power, mystery and movement of incandescence.

Two of his works seem to focus on intra-artworld discourse, playing off the works of Modern Artists and Abstract Expressionist painters. These works seem drastically misplaced, as they concern neither light nor illusion, but critical art theory. Other pieces of his do succeed in capturing the attention of a viewer seeking light and movement. His video

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



COURTESY OF HIMMELRICH INC.

"Nimbus" is one of the many pieces that utilizes shadow and light in the exhibit.

## Barnstormers present engaging student play

By PATRICK KENNEDY  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Although it revolves around a single house and a single family, Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs* contains enough material for four or five separate plays. Part heartfelt drama, part analytical comedy, the piece covers the space of about a week in 1937. Yet Simon's short timeline and taste for neat resolutions can't defeat a feeling that each of his seven characters deserves a couple acts of his or her own. Even the most obviously typed are attended by a wealth of detail and imply back stories that reach far beyond Simon's script. It also helps that even the most flawed of them attain a degree of likability.

This didn't make *Brighton Beach Memoirs* quite the hyperactive ride that the Barnstormers' last foray into the world of Neil Simon, *The Good Doctor*, offered back in 2006. However, as directed by junior Oleg Shik, the troupe's first show of the new year achieved not only moments of wit and depth, but an occasional fusion of the two. Though the work revolves largely around the perspective of one character — a boy named Eugene Jerome, the author of the titular memoirs — there wasn't a domineering player, or a weak link, in the Barnstormers' cast. Last weekend's show was blessed with the kind of balance and coordination that Simon's small setting and ambitious characterizations warranted.

The first scene finds young Eugene (sophomore Eric Levitz) fantasizing about professional baseball while his family goes about its quiet business. Aside from Eugene's solicitous mother Kate (senior Julie Sihilling), the earliest scenes are inhabited by Eugene's quiet Aunt Blanche (sophomore Emily Daly) and his pampered cousin Laurie (junior Molly Schindler). The two of them were left penniless by the death of Blanche's husband and have become quiet fixtures in the Jerome household. As the day progresses, more members of the family filter

in — Blanche's rebellious older daughter Nora (sophomore Erica Bauman), Eugene's older brother Stanley (sophomore Richard Zheng) and finally, the overworked Jerome paterfamilias, Jack (senior Christopher Chuang).

Except for Laurie, none of these characters get to the final blackout without some sort of personal cataclysm. Nora dreams of a stage career, much to the displeasure of her mother. Yet Blanche herself yearns for independence from her relatives, while Kate's responsibilities have clearly begun to wear on her nerves. Stanley, though a nice guy and a hard worker, gets into trouble at his job. And Jack, already on the verge of collapse, is asked to negotiate everybody else's problems.

The staging wasn't particularly elaborate. Nor did it need to be. Although *Brighton Beach Memoirs* repeatedly alludes to Broadway and Nazi Germany, Simon fixated more on his individual personages than on their broader culture — making elaborate period decoration somewhat beside the point. Other than a radio, a coat stand and a few other props, the Arellano's stage was as simple as possible, painted a uniform black. A real Brighton Beach apartment probably wouldn't have looked so miserable — though even if the spareness and darkness was a heavy-handed reminder of the bleaker currents in Simon's script, it was an effective reminder nonetheless. But such scenery was also the perfect forum for Eugene's ruminations. In Levitz's hands, our guide to the Jerome household became a picture of solitary, half-



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Sophomores Eric Levitz and Richard Zheng play brothers in Barnstormers' *Brighton Beach Memoirs*.

contained energy. His readings of Eugene's memoirs had a rapid, obsessive, even suspicious quality that, somewhat unexpectedly, was a convincing fit for the pubescent narrator.

Few of the other players were given comparable passages of up-front comedy. Sihilling's Kate, for instance, scored laughs mainly by complaining about a local drunk and fussing over her housework. Nora and Blanche aren't particularly funny, and Bauman and Daly were wise enough not force humor into their roles. Yet they managed to make their characters both lively and appealing, almost in defiance of Simon's tiring mother-daughter intrigues. In the midst of all this, Schindler's quiet presence was pleasantly bizarre.

A fair measure of character typing should be expected from the man who conceived *The Odd Couple*. Also as with *The Odd Couple*, Simon's most confident work embraces a masculine milieu. Without Eugene's soliloquies, Jack and Stanley could easily come close to stealing the show. Fortu-

nately, Chuang and Zheng interacted beautifully with the rest of the cast. They also pushed nicely against the beleaguered dad and self-confident son stereotypes that Simon probably had in mind, and that nonetheless open the way for some of the play's best exchanges.

Such a tendency towards generality, though, keeps Simon's anguished moments from satisfying. His dramatic scenes invite a troubling impression that another writer — like Eugene O'Neill, or maybe the guys behind *The Wonder Years* — could have pulled them off with more nuance and more art. Yet there is one indelibly awesome burst of emotion — an unexpected, near-violent argument between Eugene and Stanley. It was a chance for Levitz and Zheng to abandon the controlled tensions of the first act and deliver one of the night's best instants of onstage chemistry. And for the most part, Shik's production was another chance for Barnstormers doing what they do best — pick out a recent classic, and play its strengths for all they're worth.



## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

# The Insider's Scoop: Mike McFadden

By AMY MARCO  
For The News-Letter

"I seriously am going to murder someone," laughed Mike McFadden, 19, a local Baltimore musician. The talented songwriter has no actual intent of homicide, but told this to his housemate, Yanni, whose own laughter was audible over the telephone.

McFadden himself is a jovial blond giant. He has bright red cheeks and frequently wears plaid — it seems that he is inventing some sort of hip lumberjack look that seems very much like his personality. He's constantly joking around but is also a very grounded person. He has been performing music "since [he] sang in the church choir when [he] was younger."

McFadden is a Baltimore native who graduated from Towson High School in 2006 and has been working as a musician ever since. McFadden also works at Hopkins during the day. He is a driver for the Hopkins shuttle service, making him a familiar face to many who get a lift to get around campus.

"Actually, I opted out of quite a few good college scholarships in order to work on my music and just get a job. I was going to go into business management and start my own business," McFadden said.

His instinct for business is apparent from his current local suc-



COURTESY OF MIKE MCFADDEN  
Native Baltimorean and Hopkins van driver Mike McFadden has been working the music scene since he was only 17 years old.

cess and his plans for the future of his musical career. He has already garnered faithful fans in the area, but he also mentioned his interest in broadening his area of influence.

"I would love to branch out, to play in New York. Baltimore also

has a lot of interesting music that a lot of people have never heard of. There's a radio station — WTMD — which plays a lot of local, unknown artists. I'm going to try to get some of my music on there soon."

McFadden also writes all of

his own music.

"I put out my first CD when I was 17. It was a five-song EP, all original songs. It was recorded over a few days. I play both the bass and guitar, and the CD features a lot of really great Baltimore musicians."

His next CD took him nine months to create, finally coming out in November 2007. McFadden also performs live frequently, both in local venues (such as at the Recher Theatre in Towson and various open mics around Baltimore) He's opened for artists such as Braddigan (of Dispatch), Ben Jelen and Eric Hutchinson.

His vision of music is as down to earth as the musician himself. He lives with other musicians (such as Yanni), who are constantly listening to music and experimenting with sound.

"I'm influenced by artists such as Martin Sexton, John Mayer and Bob Dylan. My favorite album, my desert island album would have to be *Martin Sexton: Live Wide Open*. I also draw inspiration from every day events. I try to never think about things for too long. I just put it out there before I start overanalyzing it. My housemate says it's because I'm OCD. Not true," he said.

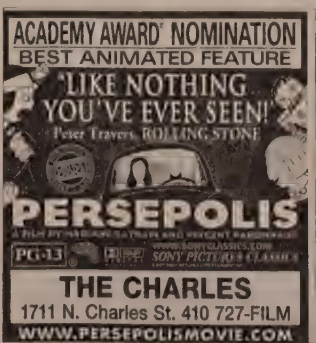
McFadden's music includes a lot of acoustic guitar, and is easygoing and upbeat. Some of his songs are inspirationally entitled, like "Something's Gotta Change," "I Know I Could" and "Get It Together." This, combined with McFadden's clear, smooth voice, creates a delightful sound.

Despite the playful melodies and harmonies in his music, McFadden has a rebellious streak toward music tradition.

He said, "I got kicked out of music theory all the time in high school. I would argue with the teacher about the principles of music theory because those rules hold you back so much. It always tells you to write music that just doesn't sound cool. So that was a problem for me. I was also always the class clown in high school. I almost even got expelled. I used to want to be a stand up comic, and now I really like to bring my jokes to shows, and try them out on the crowd. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. Usually I make fun of my band mates, and sometimes I like to just talk to people I see in the audience. It makes things more fun."

McFadden laughed (laughing is big for him), and said, "I have a lot of other funny little stories I could tell you about recording my music, but they probably shouldn't be published. You might get kicked off the *News-Letter*. And I wouldn't want that."

McFadden will be performing at the Recher Theatre in Towson on Feb. 14, 2008. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Doors open at 7, and McFadden is playing at 10 p.m. CDs will be available for purchase. Check out his new music video at [www.mikemcfaddenmusic.com](http://www.mikemcfaddenmusic.com).



## New Vibrations

Michael Jackson  
*25th Anniversary  
of Thriller*  
Sony  
Feb. 12, 2008



Two and a half decades ago a young Michael Jackson released an album that transcended the limitations of the pop genre. Containing everything from feverishly catchy pop songs to rock-and-roll edginess and ballads with the least likely of collaborators (Paul McCartney), *Thriller* skyrocketed Jackson into the stratosphere of pop-music icons. This album arguably did the most to etch the legacy of Michael Jackson into the collective minds of last two generations.

To commemorate this momentous occasion, Jackson decided to re-release his pride and joy. I will not critique the act of the re-release. Many past artists issue re-releases for a plethora of reasons, mostly to re-master their works and reintroduce their body of work to a new fan base. Jimmy Page and Led Zepelin have re-released their major works totally re-mastered to show a new fan base the electric hard rock sound that only baby boomers could have experienced firsthand, and that has wrought more success, even building a buzz for a possible reunion. The decision to re-release *Thriller* was most likely an attempt to do the same thing for Michael's career which has come to stagnation.

But somewhere in the conception of this re-release something went horribly wrong. This Frankenstein of an album (pun intended) degrades everything that made the original *Thriller* one of the greatest albums of all time. True, nothing can be said about the first half of the album, which, sure as clockwork, was just the most popular of the tracks from the original album including "Beat It," "Billie Jean," "Thriller" and "Wanna Be Starting Something." The second half of the album is what sullies the reputation of the original album.

Jackson did not attempt to put out new songs on this album, but instead opted to collaborate with currently popular artists

to make 2008 versions of many of his greatest songs. "Billie Jean 2008" commences with Fergie's nasally "London Bridge"-esque whiny rapping off the first few lines of the song, before Jackson takes over. Their battle for dominance over who has the last word continues throughout the song, only pausing during the chorus where they seem to team up in an unconventional and harsh manner. This song would surely not have been a "walk-off" song in Zoolander.

Another poor choice of collaborations is Jackson and Will.I.Am on two songs: "The Girl Is Mine 2008" and "Pretty Young Thing 2008." These tracks are slowed down to allow Will.I.Am's superfluous and ranting rhymes invade Jackson's space. I thought my faith would be restored with the Kanye West collaboration on "Billie Jean 2008," but once again Jackson, or rather Kanye, disappointed. I do not know if Kanye somehow produced this song, but I could not feel his presence anywhere in the song except for a few inaudible exclamations scattered throughout the song.

The only song even close to as entertaining as the original version is "Wanna Be Starting Something 2008" with Akon, whose melodic voice and precise verbalization synchronize with Michael as one would expect. Still, I would prefer the original song over the remake.

Instead of wasting your \$20 on this abomination of a re-release, buy the original. If you really want to check out the "2008" tracks try downloading them off of iTunes. Overall, this re-release has made me lose faith in Jackson, so to bring it back, I'm going to buy another copy of the original and jam out to *Thriller* like I did back when I was five (OK, like I still sometimes do.)

— Javed Hashmi

Simple Plan  
*Simple Plan*  
Atlantic  
Feb. 12, 2008



Simple Plan. Perhaps you know them from their big 2002 hit "I'd Do Anything." I remember it being a fun, catchy, slightly punk song to sing along to. I invite you to go back, as I did, and revisit this song. It is the perfect prototype of teeny bopper "punk" music: 'N Sync with (parents, hide your children!) a mohawk. Or perhaps you recall "Addicted," which uses the word "dick," to the delight of giggly eighth graders everywhere.

Now that you've listened again to their admittedly well-titled album "No Pads, No Helmets ... Just Balls," you probably came to the same realization I did: This music blows. It is not punk, it is not rock, it's just terrible.

So, in the last few years, Simple Plan has had the opportunity to grow, to change, to develop as artists. Since 2004's forgettable sophomore effort "Still Not Getting Any..." the band should have learned the lesson: Let's get something real in this music.

But, of course, they haven't. The reason why is obvious: They are raking in the green by marketing themselves to a tween demographic that thinks Simple Plan's lyrics and vaguely punk stylings are edgy and rebellious. The result, in the new album *Simple Plan*, is more of exactly the same.

The same pop-punk vocals, reminiscent of Blink-182, dominate. The instruments and vocals are processed so much that you feel like the entire disc could have been laid down by one guy sitting in front of his iBook.

The first track and first single of the album is "When I'm Gone," a you'll-be-sorry-later song that has already been sung by every band ever to exist. The chorus features an obviously artificial

perfect-octave vocal harmony (think: when Pete Wentz "sings" on a Fall Out Boy track).

Next up is "Take My Hand." Do the lyrics "Take my hand tonight/Let's not think about tomorrow" ring a bell? Probably so, because they summarize well the subject of 20 other Simple Plan songs.

Later on, the second single, "Your Love Is A Lie," stumbles onto the record. The post-chorus guitar hook seems to be borrowed from Jesse McCartney's "Beautiful Soul," not my first choice for lick-stealing. The chorus itself is barely even catchy, bumbling through standard hook ideas.

The standout track on this album was sadly overlooked as a single. The last time a song made me laugh aloud, it was a tune by Flight of the Conchords. One presumes the New Zealand band, however, realizes they were being funny. Simple Plan's "Generation" makes me chuckle for all the wrong reasons. One easily gets the image of a gangly 14-year-old rocking out to "Hey, oh, let's go! It's going down tonight! Hey, oh, let's go! We're gonna do it till we die!" This chorus is immediately followed, incredibly, by a ditty that features the exact same synth effect as used in Europe's "The Final Countdown."

The album rounds out with ill-conceived power ballads and more attempts at pop-punk. My recommendation: Download a couple tracks from your favorite illegal music sharing site for a laugh, then promptly delete them.

— John Kernan

## Seniors collaborate on Arts Certificate project

By SARAH SABSHON  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Each year, the Homewood Arts Program Certificate is awarded to students who have excelled in non-academic arts such as dance, music, digital media, fine/visual arts and theater. Eric Beatty, director of Homewood Arts Programs, created the certificate program after two students approached him in 2003.

The goal is "to shine a spotlight on the many arts activities that go on each semester and the incredible personal growth that happens because of participation in arts activities during college."

Obviously many students feel this is a fitting way to recognize their dedication; each year Beatty receives 30 applicants.

Part of the application process includes a final senior project that exemplifies everything that the students have worked for.

"I think in particular the final projects enrich the community because they are a culminating artistic experience for the student, one that is personal and important to the student. Any chance for graduating students to share special projects that are meaningful to them can only enhance the quality of campus life," Beatty said.

These final projects are typically performances or exhibitions ranging from an "anonymous theater" project where the actors met for the first time on opening night and

Hopkins's first-ever concerto and aria concert, the winners of which will perform with the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra. This year, four seniors will come together for their final project to direct and produce four short plays in a one-night-only cabaret-style show.

"Our original concept was to do something like the Barnstormers' Freshman One-Acts but using only seniors. But scheduling problems emerged. We realized it didn't make sense to limit ourselves to only seniors with so many talented students on campus," said senior Mitch Frank, president of Witness Theater and one of the student directors.

The production goes on April 5, which coincides with JHUT's *Le Ronde* and the Barnstormers' spring musical *Pippin*, so the students decided that a late-night show would ensure a

larger audience.

Senior Julie Shilling, a dedicated Barnstormer and another of the directors, explained the additional allure of the non-traditional structure.

"It's also just something kind of different, and hopefully that difference will be exciting. Also, since it's only one night, we hope that will create excitement around the performance as well — 'One Night Only!'"

So far, only three of the four plays have been chosen (they are still accepting submissions of student written plays), two of which are written by the direc-

tors themselves.

*Can Can* by Romulus Linney (Laura Linney's dad), is a WWII transgressive love play. Frank said, "Think *Atonement*, but instead of Keira Knightley and James McAvoy you get a G.I. and his French girlfriend, and a Kentucky housewife and her homely diner waitress girlfriend. Kentucky lesbians, oh yeah!"

An *Evening at Hog Theater* has been adapted by senior and director Liz Eldridge from a collection of poems by Russell Edson. Eldridge has adapted these almost science fiction poems into a Vaudeville act with live pigs.

*Midway Family Singing* is by Frank. Set in 1893 at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, it's about a traveling family singing act, with Ozark spirituals and more same-sex love. While this evening sounds like it is just a night of absurdities and an excuse for these seniors to have one last hurrah, it has taken a lot of work and funding to make it all possible.

Eldridge says, "I'm so excited by our idea, and the way it's grown as we've talked about it, as we've encountered obstacles and overcome them." It's precisely these obstacles that make the certificate, in the end, worthwhile.

For some of the students, it's about qualifications for a job in the future; for others it's just something to be proud of. Senior and director Michelle Brown, however, put it best. "The arts certificate isn't about the piece of paper, it's about the work you've done over the past four years to get it."

Auditions for these plays are Feb. 16 and 17 from 3-6 p.m. in the Great Hall. Southern accents and strong singers needed. No other preparation

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## Exhibit explores illusions of light Prof. Drew Daniel reveals secret life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

"Anna" is animated by a play of 35mm photographs and is paired with the sound of rain. The culmination of rugged movement and the sound create a dazzling but short moment of art. It's as though Anna were reflected in a puddle. She dances as light on water.

In general, however, Hildebrandt's work is neither a master of "slight of hand" nor creative or provocative doubling — placing a mirror next to a video screen is a bit too frank. Juxtaposed with the more delicate and specifically light-and-illusion oriented pieces by Grant and Temple, Hildebrandt's work seems overbearing, stark and enshrouded with a thoughtlessness for the exhibits theme. His work simply did not belong in this exhibit.

The works of both Temple and Grant, however, successfully embody the vision of the exhibit. Temple filled the exhibit with delicacy and subtly both in her thematic presence and with the techniques employed. Two of her works entail silver printing which portray a disjointed room composed of lines and graceful shadows of trees. Their composition seems to mimic the movement of light in a space.

Her strongest work is her site specific piece, "Southwest Corner, Northeast Light" in which she presents the illusion that light is streaming through a window, casting shadows of branches and leaves upon the wall and floor. So convincing is her painting and sensitivity to color that viewers continually look for some light above, casting the scene.

Another piece of hers, which is a bit rough feeling, is a video installation of light found streaming onto the tracks of a New York City subway. The beauty of the piece waits at the end of the three-minute time-lapsed video and is certainly worth the viewing.

The highlight of the exhibit, redeeming it from its lack of co-



COURTESY OF HIMMELRICH INC.

Mary Temple's piece gives the illusion of an outside light source using shadows.

hesiveness, is Alexandra Grant's sculpture "nimbus II." Suspended from the ceiling, in the shape of concentric spheres, her piece is layered with winding wire, some of which is fashioned into words.

The sculpture is lit in such a way that not only are the layers of words and the flash of metal enticing, but as the sculpture spins, it casts a kaleidoscope of shadows. The layers of wire translate into different shades of shadow, and the words flow in and out of focus. It is a provoking piece, perhaps an exploration of consciousness. Regardless, it resonates with thoughtfulness and remarkable content.

*Double-Take: The Poetics of Illusion and Light* is not the most unified of the Contemporary Art Museum's recent exhibits. Whether this is the result of a too narrowly envisioned project, or the inclusion of seemingly contradictory pieces is ambiguous.

While the show is not the strongest either, it consists of at least three impressive works that do succeed in examining that which is poetic of light.

*Double-Take: The Poetics of Illusion and Light* runs through May 11, 2008. Call Contemporary Museum at (410) 783-5720 or visit [www.contemporary.org](http://www.contemporary.org) for more information.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

with this woman, Vicky Bennett, whose one woman band is called, "People Like Us," and she got obsessed with Americana, primarily through records she bought in thrift stores. She saw that there was this whole thing in the '60s and '70s of the sentimental versions of the Old West. She had a video tape of the show *Bonanza*, this super corny western TV show, and she had this recording of one of the characters in that show singing that song, talking about it.

DD: We did a concert with "People Like Us" and another collage artist named Wobbly, where the theme was all folk and country. We've done a lot of covers of traditional music. On our new record, we've done a baroque piece by the French composer Francois Couperin. On one of our records, we did a really crazy version of Sousa's "Stars and Stripes."

NL: How do you infuse the newer contemporary feel into the traditional music?

DD: In the case of "Stars and Stripes," we downloaded a general midi-file of the song, so we have the music hand, sort of ready off the Web. Then we just send it through a bunch of synthesizer sounds, which were completely unpitched and unrelated, so you produce this really dense, nasty version of the anthem. Then we combine that with field recordings we made of this attempt on the Fourth of July to record the world's largest number of grand pianos simultaneously playing Sousa. So we have this field recording of a 160 grand pianos playing that same music.

MS: It was amazing, and so much like modern art. 160 grand pianos are so apart from each other that these 40 people [on one end] can't really hear these 40 [on the other end.] So it was like a Charles Ives thing. I think we were the only people there who appreciated what flawless modern art this was. It was so America — they had a preacher talk before hand and talk about how

we're playing this great American Song. It was in Alabama on the Fourth of July.

NL: You've worked with Björk before. What was that experience like?

DD: We were her band for her album *Vespertine*. We were also her band for two world tours, so we worked for her in total for about four years, which was really fun. It kind of hit me in the middle of finishing my Ph.D at Berkeley, and I had to take a break from my dissertation to do a world tour with Björk.

NL: Can you tell me about your last album?

DD: We released an album called *A Rose Has Teeth in the Mouth of a Beast*, a series of audio portraits of people we admire. It ranges from Mad King Ludwig of Bavaria to punk rock singer, Darby Crash. We tried to act out events from their lives, and then make the music out of the noises generated while we were doing reenactments. Sometimes, it called for some pretty odd situa-

tions. So we made a song out my flesh being burned with a cigarette and a song out the sounds of snails interrupting the path of a laser that was directed at a light-sensitive theremin [an electronic musical instrument].

NL: You just published a book called *20 Jazz Funk Greats*. Could you tell me about that book?

DD: I just published a book about the English industrialist noise band, Throb and Gristle for this series called *Thirty-Three and a Third*, published by Continuum. It was really a chance to return to a record that I worshipped when I was an adolescent and think about it in a more critical way. It involved interviewing the original members of Throb and Gristle and a lot of their friends, and also, thinking about some of the references, and kind of esoteric and occult materials that are referenced throughout the band's music.

*Matmos's next album, Supreme Balloon, in cooperation with Mator, will be released in May.*



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

English professor Drew Daniel and his partner make the perfect musical team.

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# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Genetically altered mosquitoes help fight malaria

By ALICE WU  
News-Letter Staff Writer

One of the major public health issues of the developing world is the spread of malaria, a disease that afflicts about 500 million people and kills between one and three million people worldwide each year. Malaria is caused by the transmission of the *Plasmodium* parasite from the salivary glands of female *Anopheles* mosquitoes to human blood.

Since no vaccination currently exists for this disease and the parasite has become increasingly drug-resistant, a promising method of preventing the spread of malaria is to target its principal vector, the mosquito.

Improved knowledge of the workings of the *Anopheles* immune system hints at the possibility of creating genetically modified *Plasmodium*-resistant mosquitoes to stop the spread of malaria. It appears that a protein called GNPB is necessary for mosquitoes that harbor the *Plasmodium* parasite.

In order to study the role of GNPB in the mosquito immune system, researchers at the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology of the Bloomberg School of Public Health have focused on the mosquito genome as the center of their investigation.

The immune system of the *Anopheles* mosquito is innately able to recognize *Plasmodium* as a foreign substance and responds in such ways to combat the parasite.

Cellular and humoral defense mechanisms in mosquito are triggered by pattern recognition receptor (PRR) molecules, which bind to pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) on a



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By shutting down production of a single protein, scientists were able to prevent mosquitoes from harboring the malaria parasite.

pathogen such as a parasite. This is analogous to the way the human immune system uses antibodies to target invading pathogens.

These receptors are capable of inducing direct target-and-destroy mechanisms within the *Anopheles* immune system as well as triggering the activation of pathways that leads to the transcription of antimicrobial peptides.

An RNAi-based gene silencing

approach was used for the main part of this study — investigating the role of GNBPs as defense mechanisms against *Plasmodium* in the *Anopheles* mosquito.

By shutting off expression of GNBPs in the mosquito immune system, then feeding them with *Plasmodium*-infected blood, the researchers were able to assess whether the gene was a necessary part of the mosquito's interactions with the parasite.

Results showed that GNBPB4

plays an important role in the defense against pathogens. Mosquitoes without functioning GNBPB4 had a much greater infection rate with parasites. Furthermore, microscopic investigations found that in normal mosquitoes the GNBPB4 antibody was targeted to *Plasmodium* eggs.

GNBPB4's interaction with *Plasmodium* is in sync with previous literature results, which indicated that the *Anopheles* immune system is active in defense against the parasite. Ultimately, our knowledge of how GNBPs work will aid in the development for novel methods of malaria control based on eliminating the parasite from the *Anopheles* mosquito vector population.

## Genetic disorder helps protect from cancer

Down syndrome abnormality can decrease colon cancer rates

By SAM OHMER  
News-Letter Staff Writer

In an unexpected new experiment, scientists from the Hopkins School of Medicine and colleagues at Ohio State University have shown that mice with a relatively common chromosomal abnormality have a decreased rate of intestinal cancer.

The genetic condition, trisomy 21, occurs when an extra copy of chromosome 21 is inherited from one parent. In humans, this causes Down syndrome, a genetic childhood disorder in which patients have three copies of chromosome 21 rather than a normal pair.

Down syndrome has several trademark symptoms in humans, including characteristically flat facial features, almond-shaped eyes, heart problems and mental retardation.

These characteristics are all products of the genetic trisomy and therefore over-expression of genes on chromosome 21. Usually, this over-expression has drastic, and often tragic, consequences.

However, this study from the laboratory of Roger Reeves has shown that in mouse models, trisomy 21 actually seems to decrease the rate of intestinal cancer formation and growth, despite inconclusive studies in humans over the last 50 years. The reduction is substantial, reaching up into the 60th percentile range in

some cases.

The team proposes that the reason for this unexpected and slightly paradoxical benefit of the trisomy of chromosome 21 is that one or more of the genes that gets over-expressed, in particular the gene *Ets2*, has a repressive effect on tumor growth.

*Ets2* is of particular interest to scientists because *Ets2* over-expression due to trisomy is thought to cause increased production of an abnormal *Ets2* protein, which is good news: The normal *Ets2* protein has previously been thought of as a "pro-cancer" protein.

The mouse model of intestinal cancer used in this experiment demonstrates how tumors are often caused by a faulty or mutated gene that is related to a gene that causes colon cancer in humans.

If it is shown that *Ets2* works directly to repress tumor formation, scientists could study the manner in which *Ets2* works in order to create an analog treatment in human cases of intestinal cancer. They have already started to do so.

With the knowledge gained in this study, and with further verification, it is possible that someday there could be a pharmaceutical preventative for cancer using the idea that certain genes, through over-expression, can decrease the incidence and growth rate of tumors.

## Discovery helps answer how stem cells act

By NEIL NEUMANN  
For The News-Letter

In a recent journal article, researchers from the Hopkins School of Medicine's Institute of Cell Engineering (ICE) show that cellular markers of embryonic germ cell (EGC) pluripotency are also expressed on primordial germ cells (PGC) in the human fetal ovary.

Every cell in your body can be traced back to a single cell, the fertilized egg. Early in development, every cell in the embryo can theoretically develop into any one of the hundreds of cell types in a mature body. Some of these "undifferentiated" cells live on even into adulthood.

In stem cell biology, there are multiple levels of differentiation upon which cell types in a certain state are allowed to mature to other, more specific cells. Totipotent cells are those which can produce any cell in the body, as well as placental cells.

Pluripotent cells can give rise to any cell in the body, including germ cells, or sperm and egg cells. Multipotent and unipotent cells are limited in their ability to differentiate (except in special cases of transdifferentiation).

For example, an *in vivo* muscle stem cell is unable to produce a neuron, and vice versa. With that said, manipulations *in vitro* can allow regressions to a more immature state such as mouse embryonic fibroblasts reverting to embryonic stem cells.

Developmentally, several days after fertilization of the female oocyte by the male sperm, certain cell-types begin to emerge.

There are the pluripotent inner cell mass (ICM) cells that give rise to the embryo that develops into bodily tissues and organs. From here there is a clear

separation of the somatic cell lineages compared to the germ cells.

Germ cells are cells that give rise to the germline such as sperm and oocytes. The PGCs arise from the ICM and eventually mature into sperm or oocytes. From the PGCs, pluripotent EGCs can be derived.

All cells in the developing embryo are destined for the somatic cell line, so it is paramount that the germ cells repress that fate. Upon migration to the genital ridge, the PGCs go through extensive erasing of the epigenetic modifications and allow the PGCs to regenerate a totipotent cell.

The PGCs then form the germ cells, which upon maturation, can be used to reproduce.

Since embryonic germ cells are pluripotent stem cells derived from fetal tissue (PGCs), it would follow that these cells express highly similar, but distinct, cell markers.

Before this paper, from the laboratory of world-renowned stem cell researcher John D. Gearhart, no one had looked at the gene expression levels of certain key pluripotency genes. This is what his team set out to find.

The results show that within 5.5 to 15 weeks post-fertilization, there were distinct populations of PGCs that expressed pluri-

potency markers such as cKIT, Nanog, OCT4 and VASA. Furthermore, these cells expressed SSEA1, SSEA4 and had alkaline phosphatase activity, all of which are evidence for pluripotency.

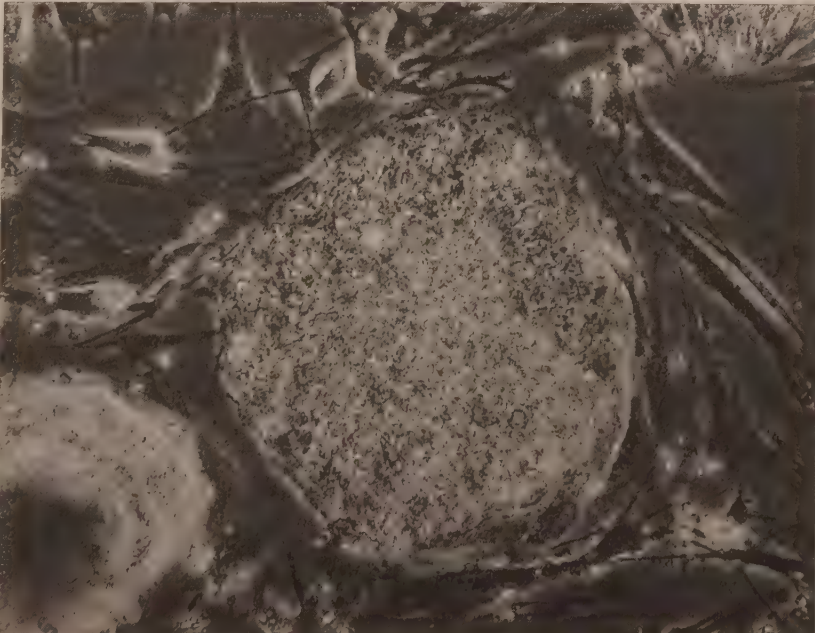
The researchers also wanted to show the ability of these PGC populations to give rise to pluripotent EGCs. The EGCs were derived from SSEA1+ PGCs and Gearhart *et al.* show that a positive correlation exists between the number of OCT4+ cells and efficiency of derivation.

The expression of cell markers TRA-1-60 and TRA-1-81 were limited to the EGCs, showing a distinct but highly similar expression profile for the unipotent PGCs and the pluripotent EGCs.

These results demonstrate an enhanced understanding of developmental biology and the importance of pluripotency genes in germ cell fate.

According to Gearhart, researchers need to understand these results and see that they should not only be looking at expression of a set of genes, but should instead focus on seeing the diversity within a population of cells and how that influences pluripotency.

Future studies will look at how cells become pluripotent and which pathways are involved in this transformation.



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Scientists are one step closer to understanding the pathway that stem cells use to develop into other cells.

## “Gene locks” allow scientists to target cells

By BEN KALLMAN  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Hopkins scientists have reported a novel method of killing specific populations of cells that could have important applications to cancer and virus therapies.

The technique involves specialized strands of DNA that block cell replication, according to their report published in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*. The strands in question are called “anti-gene padlocks,” and their name is quite instructive.

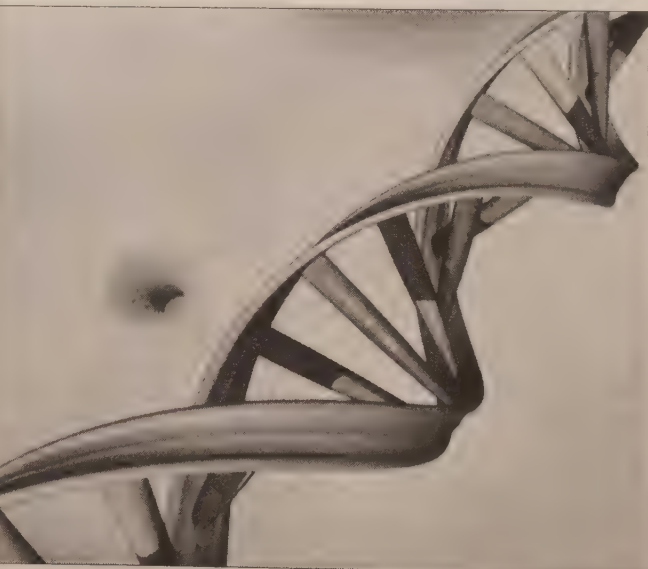
By physically and irreversibly wrapping themselves around a target gene, the padlocks effectively cut that gene off from the machinery of DNA replication necessary to maintain a cell's status quo.

The padlock technology is the newest in a series of breakthrough therapies all aimed at using diseased cells' genetic profiles to target them for elimination.

Antisense RNA and small interfering RNA (siRNA), for example, have proven effective in killing cancer cells, but both of those approaches are post-transcriptional (that is, they function by interfering with messenger RNA which carries a transcribed “copy” of the genetic code). Anti-gene padlocks, on the other hand, function by interacting directly with the DNA helix, blocking transcription and replication before they can occur.

Led by James Eshleman, a researcher at the School of Medicine, the team custom-built a short segment of DNA — the padlock — to be complementary to the DNA in a gene in the bacterium *E. coli*. (In genetic parlance, two strands of DNA are complementary if they're able to bind to each other.)

They then used an electric current to open the bacterium's cell membrane and injected the padlock into its nucleus. Once bound to its target, a special-



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Therapies that block the action of vital genes could allow specific cells to be killed.

ized protein called a DNA ligase grabbed the two loose ends of the soon-to-be padlock and linked them together. That ligating process is the genetic equivalent of permanently tying a shoelace.

With a padlock firmly surrounding a target gene, gene-copying cellular machinery can't do its job.

Without the ability to copy its genome, a cell can no longer divide, let alone fix any problems with its own genome. In the long-term, this could mean a reduction in the number of virus-infected cells or the size of a cancerous tumor.

Nonetheless, only 30 to 40 percent of the target-possessing *E. coli* was killed. The researchers attributed the modest success rate to the fact that the padlocks in this particular experiment were made from standard DNA, which they knew to be susceptible to normal degradation by enzymes called exonucleases.

As the team's goal was simply to prove the viability of the anti-gene padlock technology, they weren't too concerned and suggest that modifying the DNA

backbone in certain ways will protect the padlocks from being broken down. What's more, the gene they targeted in *E. coli* wasn't essential to the bacterium's survival.

Choosing a more crucial gene will likely increase the rate of elimination of cells bearing the target gene.

This is the crux of the therapeutic potential of the padlock technology: By selecting a gene that is both unique to a diseased cell and essential to its survival, the padlocks will be able to specifically home in on sick cells while avoiding damaging healthy ones.

The potential applications are remarkably numerous; cancer and viral infection are two obvious possibilities, but the team also suggests the intriguing prospect of applying the technology to fighting drug-resistant infectious disease, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

The fact that the number of MRSA infections treated in U.S. hospitals doubled between 1999 and 2005 suggests no shortage of target genes ripe for a padlock.



## Science News Briefs

### APL astronomers release first detailed map of Martian surface

In late December scientists from the Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) in Laurel, Md. made the first step in obtaining a detailed global map of another world: Mars.

NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which is currently in the planet's orbit, has just processed 200 composite images of the Martian surface, each of which consists of a multitude of detailed pictures. All told, about 11 percent of Mars has been imaged so far.

The motivation of the Hopkins scientists is to find traces of geological activities that cause certain mineral distributions and rock formations observed on Mars. This information might even reveal clues about recent water flow patterns, which may be a hint of life on Mars.

The device aboard the Orbiter recognizes 544 different wavelengths of light, some of which are not visible to the human eye. However, it uses only about a tenth of its recording capacity to allow simultaneous shots and quicker data evaluation. Since the research team aims to map the entire planet, careful application of resources is advisable.

Eventually, the probe will have collected almost 2,000 tile-shaped images that cover the entire planet. A common problem is that certain minerals swallow sunlight so these remain invisible to the camera eye, thereby leaving white spots on the map.

For increased efficiency, the Orbiter itself takes a picture and overlays this with its mineral analysis charts. Innovative software then helps in extracting information from the images and thereby dramatically increases the amount of data that has been obtained.

### Distant galaxy shoots powerful jet at neighbor

Astronomers have recently observed galactic violence with the Hopkins-operated Hubble Space Telescope. A powerful jet spanning hundreds of light years has shot from one galaxy to its neighbor. The jet will clearly have an enormous influence on planets and anything else in its pathway.

The setting of this event is a pair of two galaxies that orbit each other. Both have black holes in their centers. The origin of the jet is the galactic center, close to the black hole. Researchers suspect the black hole to be the actual origin.

Indeed the influence could be disastrous for the smaller galaxy since its high energy X-rays and gamma rays are among the most destructive forces known to humans. These rays can even damage or destroy ozone layers in the atmospheres of planets. Such a jet could easily damage the Earth's ozone layer.

Even in comparison these jets are fairly powerful since they emit so much energy that allows black holes to affect other objects that have far greater mass than they do. This unprecedented event gives researchers the possibility to learn about the effects these jets have on other galaxies.

Since the two galaxies are so close, the jet will most probably have a significant influence. Images are already available in which one can see how the smaller galaxy has already been struck. The jet was partially deflected and lost some of its energy.

On a cosmic time scale, the event happened recently, about one million years ago. However, one should not worry too much about the small galaxy: The high energies involved might actually spark a round of births of new stars once the jet is done with its destruction.

### Hubble spots radiation burst from 7.4 billion years ago

Using NASA's Swift satellite and the Gemini Observatory in Hawaii, an international team of researchers, among them Hopkins scientists, has found an extremely old explosion dating halfway back to the Big Bang. In fact, it is twice as old as the previously known oldest explosion.

There are many types of explosions that astronomers have observed in the universe. The one that was detected last summer is called a gamma ray burst and is one of the most powerful events in the known universe. These cosmic events emit highly energetic gamma rays as well as X-rays. In addition, there are two types of gamma ray bursts: long and short ones. A burst is considered to be long if it lasts more than three seconds (try to imagine how quickly that explosion must go!). The recently discovered burst a short one, lasting under a second, and is much more mysterious in its origins.

The most popular theory holds that short gamma ray bursts occur when two compressed neutron stars smash into each other and produce a black hole, which causes two beams that escape from the source. It could be that the whole energy of the explosion had been concentrated in the two beams and that one of them happened to be directed at Earth.

While the origins of the gamma ray burst are unclear, the researchers can be sure of the age of the explosion. They calculated the distance to the explosion at 7.4 billion light years, meaning that the explosion happened 7.4 billion years ago. Since the universe is only thought to be about 13.7 billion years old, this is one of the oldest artifacts ever discovered in our universe.

—All briefs by Jerome Simons

## Survey pinpoints stigma against HIV/AIDS

Countries in which infections are widespread may have fewer preconceptions about HIV patients

By VRITIKA PRAKASH  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Shame, blame and fear of social isolation have caused many individuals in communities around the world to ignore HIV/AIDS until it is too late. This stigma has prevented the successful treatment of HIV in many developing countries.

New research from the Bloomberg School of Public Health may help medical practitioners understand this powerful but ultimately counterproductive phenomenon.

The Hopkins team has been measuring the patterns and importance of social stigmas in Thailand and Zimbabwe, two de-

veloping countries with very different HIV/AIDS rates, in hopes that this information will allow more effective treatment in these countries.

The study involved a public survey consisting of 22 questions that ask subjects to rate the extent to which they agree with a variety of statements about the disease.

Some of the statements included: "people living with HIV/AIDS should be ashamed," "people who have HIV/AIDS are cursed" and "people with HIV/AIDS should not have the same freedoms as other people."

There were three main themes tested in the survey: shame, perceived discrimination and eq-

uity for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The study found much greater stigma against HIV/AIDS patients in Thailand than in Zimbabwe, perhaps because the disease is not nearly as common in Thailand.

Zimbabwe has the fourth highest rate of HIV infection in the world, with approximately one-fourth of all adults infected. Only about 1.5 percent of Thai adults are infected; the country is ranked 17th worldwide.

Interestingly, the group found that in Zimbabwe, where infection rates are considerably higher, there is correspondingly less social isolation and discrimination associated with HIV-positive status.

One major factor in this widely shared attitude may be due to the fact that many respondents to the survey in Zimbabwe are likely to be personally acquainted with someone with HIV/AIDS, while for many respondents in Thailand the questions are more abstract. Psychologists have often described this effect in a variety of social situations.

The researchers also found that this cultural attitude may have actually led to increased effectiveness of HIV treatments in Zimbabwe, a promising finding for future public health projects.

The findings imply that when people have more accepting attitudes toward HIV/AIDS, they are more likely themselves to get tested and seek treatment, as well as to be supportive of friends and family with the illness.

Further characterization of the social stigmas surrounding illnesses such as HIV/AIDS may eventually help physicians and public health experts to improve the effectiveness of treatment in a culturally-sensitive manner.

The paper appears in the December 2007 issue of the journal *AIDS Behavior*. The research was led by David Celentano at Hopkins and collaborators in Thailand and Zimbabwe.

### THE COMPLETE SURVEY

1. People living with HIV/AIDS should be ashamed.
2. People with AIDS should be isolated from other people.
3. People who have HIV/AIDS are cursed.
4. A person with HIV/AIDS should be allowed to work with other people.
5. People living with HIV/AIDS deserve to be punished.
6. Families of people living with HIV/AIDS should be ashamed.
7. It is reasonable for an employer to fire people who have HIV/AIDS.
8. People with HIV/AIDS are disgusting.
9. People who have HIV/AIDS deserve compassion.
10. People with HIV should be allowed to participate fully in the social events in this community.
11. People living with HIV/AIDS face neglect from their family.
12. People living with HIV/AIDS face physical abuse.
13. People want to be friends

- with someone who has HIV/AIDS.
14. People living with HIV/AIDS face ejection from their homes by their families.
15. Most people would not buy vegetables from a shopkeeper or food seller that they knew had AIDS.
16. People who are suspected of having HIV/AIDS lose respect in the community.
17. People who have HIV/AIDS face verbal abuse.
18. People living with HIV/AIDS face rejection from their peers.
19. People who have HIV/AIDS should be treated the same as everyone else.
20. People with HIV/AIDS do not deserve any support.
21. People with HIV/AIDS should not have the same freedoms as other people.
22. People living with HIV/AIDS should be treated similarly by health care professionals as people with other illnesses.

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# YOUR NEWS-LETTER

## How being rejected changes lives      Ten things NOT to do for Valentine's

One Hopkins student's personal account of last Valentine's heartache and his new view on life

By RAJIV MALLIPUDI  
For The News-Letter

February 14, 2007

Valentine's Day! This is the big day. This is the day I tell her how I feel! This is the day I kiss the girl! This is the day I get the girl!

After class I am going to walk through the snow storm to Gordon's florist, pick up the carnations, put on my best shirt, then knock on her door.

She will see the flowers, smile with delight, hug me and look into my eyes and kiss me. Then she will say, "Thank you, Rajiv! I love you!" And I will get the girl!

February 14, 2008

Wow. I can't believe I actually thought that would work. In fact, I can't believe I *did* that. What the hell was I thinking? In retrospect, that was one of the most naive thoughts I had in my entire life.

Why? Because I never even made a move on this girl. I actually asked her to be my girlfriend ... on Valentine's Day. It's laughable. Seriously, you can laugh. It's alright (Pause for laughter). Oh yeah, she said no. (Pause for laughter)

OK, OK, I think that's humiliating enough. Rejection on Valentine's Day is pretty bad. We'll stop there. I'm going to skip the details and just tell you why I'm telling you this story. There is a purpose to this besides it being embarrassingly funny.

You see, before that day, I was very hopeless with women. Throughout my life I was very shy around girls.

They would terrify me. I would panic when I saw a beautiful girl. I wouldn't know what to say to her. So in middle school I avoided school dances at all cost.

Unfortunately, when I got to high school and college, my luck with girls didn't improve. Sure, I could talk to girls I liked, but

I would be too damn scared to make a move because. So I would just end up being her friend. And I hated that.

So when I asked out one of my best friends (whom I crushed on for over a year) on Valentine's Day sophomore year of college, Rejection was waiting to smack me in the face.

That night I lay in my bed thinking of every girl in my life that I ever liked. All those infatuations ended the same way — going nowhere. Why didn't girls like me? Was it because I'm short? Am I ugly? Am I not cool? How did nerdy guys get girlfriends, and I was single? What was going on?

Rejection body slammed my self-esteem through three floors of McCoy. That night I acknowledged my defeat, worthlessness and inadequacy as a man.

Then I realized I was holding myself back for years because I *feared* rejection. And because I feared rejection, I played it safe with girls and became "the friend."

Today, I have a different outlook on women. In fact, I completely changed my outlook on women.

I didn't want to get hurt. But in the end, because I never took a chance, I did get hurt. I was living a life of regret.

Today, I have a different outlook on women. In fact, I completely changed my outlook on women. I *love* women. Women are beautiful and exciting creatures. They are fun, spontaneous and energetic, and they make me laugh in ways that my girlfriends can't.

The approach anxiety I had for years when it came to meeting new women is gone. I get a rush of excitement when I see a beautiful girl. I am eager to approach her and find out how amazing she is.

I have met many great women since my transformation. Some girls have become new friends in my social circle, and others are gorgeous and exciting women that I have enjoyed dating.

I never wanted to change my personality. I was always happy with who I was.

I just wanted to be better with the opposite sex. And what's wrong with that? I want to excel in academics, sports, and why not women?

I'm not saying I'm a "ladies' man" today. I'm not. But I changed because I was sick of being lonely and worthless in the realm of dating.

Now I relish in it. I improved a part of my life that I was lacking in.

I turned the hardest Rejection of my life into a life-changing experience that has opened a door to new opportunities for me.

There are plenty of frustrated guys out there who are attracted to women, but aren't doing anything about it. You sit around thinking of excuses why you don't date, or tell your friends, "I'm just waiting for the right girl."

But inside you know it's a lie. You yearn for companionship and want to be great with women. And on Valentine's Day you are upset because you are lonely. And you don't want to feel that way.

Now is the time to wake up! Change your life. You're not going to get a girlfriend by giving her flowers on Valentine's Day — trust me on this one. You have to pull yourself together, and go out there and get her. Go out. Meet women.

Get over your fear of rejection. Don't take anything personally. You will feel great satisfaction in making an effort to improve your situation, and most importantly, in changing your life. You will take pride in yourself for taking on a challenge that you avoided for all your life.

So what am I, the *new* Rajiv Mallipudi, up to on Valentine's Day this year? Am I single on this day? As of now, yes. Do I have a date? No. Do I care? Not really.

But this is the happiest Valentine's Day of my life! My confidence and self-worth are greater than ever. I have overcome a great fear and inadequacy in my life, and that is the greatest feeling in the world.

I'm now confident enough to not only let women know how I feel, but also to pass on my mistakes to the world!

By TONI DELSORBO  
For The News-Letter

Valentine's Day is the perfect time to show your special someone just how much you care about them. Typically, a guy will



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A group date can often ruin a romantic Valentine's dinner.

lavish a girl with gifts such as flowers and chocolates and just about anything with a heart on it or containing the colors pink, red or purple.

Therefore, if you stray from these guidelines at all, it is very easy to turn a romantic Hallmark holiday into a huge relationship faux pas.

Here are some of the worst possible things you could do on Valentine's Day. They're all sure-fire hits if you're looking to tell your partner "Get lost."

10) Group date: Going out with a bunch of friends for a movie and dinner may be a good time every other day of the week but on Valentine's Day maybe you should consider some one-on-one time to make it a little more special than every other night.

9) Forgetting to make reservations: Forgivable, but not forgettable. She'll be super upset if you don't remember to make dinner reservations.

There are tons of things to be read into when the night's main activity depends on you and the ball is dropped. If you don't want a lot of crying and accusations thrown your way you better make a reservation or having a mind-blowing back-up plan.

8) Aww, a present for ... you? Remember that this occasion is about your girlfriend and your relationship. Be a little bit more selfless than you usually are so refrain from buying *yourself* anything you might want or need

such as ratchets, hammers, and all general appliances. She may like smoothies but don't buy her a blender.

7) Telling her you don't like your present: She bought you something. She picked it out, she mulled it over and odds are it wasn't a compulsive buy so the least you can do is pretend you like it. Try really, really hard. You can do it.

6) Generic "whoops" card: Hallmark didn't say it best. It doesn't matter how sweet it is, or how frilly. If it didn't come

from you then it doesn't mean as much and that means she doesn't mean as much.

That's not what you've said with words but trust me it's what she's thinking. If you really want a card that says something, get a blank card and write something cute on the inside; simple, yet effective.

5) Outback Steakhouse, but she's a vegetarian: Pay attention. If she hates seafood avoid seafood restaurants; if she's an animal rights activist stay away from steakhouses, etc.

Paying attention to her likes and dislikes is not too difficult and it always scores you some brownie points.

4) Flowers for ... another girl: Let's just say that if you send her flowers, be sure to get the name on the card right. Spelling counts, fella.

3) Not acknowledging it altogether: It's possible that your significant other doesn't like Valentine's Day, but it isn't likely.

No matter how much she protests or complains that V'day is the biggest waste of time or one of the stupidest, Hallmarkesque, over commercialized "holidays" ever created, don't ignore it entirely.

Something small goes a long way, even if it isn't strictly Valentine's day themed. Use your imagination and think outside the chocolate box.

2) Making plans with someone else: Whether it's a bunch of your guy friends or your best friend who just so happens to be single and of the opposite sex, don't do it. You might as well just dump yourself at this point.

1) Breaking up: This can be done any day of the week. Don't pick Valentine's Day. It's just cruel and inhumane. You may hate your current "other" but still ... have a heart!



COURTESY OF HTTP://FLICKR.COM  
Don't get your heart broken this Valentine's Day.

## Ten reasons why this guy doesn't buy into Vday hype

By ROBERT ATTORRI  
For The News-Letter

1. The commercials. Seriously, people, I think if I see one more commercial for Jared, with all the teary-eyed girlfriends swooning about how "he went to Jared," I think I might have to kill my television.

The number of people it shows stupefied at what to purchase for their soulmate, only to find the answer at a 24-hour drug store is truly astounding.

2. Girls expect too much from it. Trite but true, and also unfor-

tunate, but many women think that Valentine's Day is a special day when Prince Charming will wake up early, go the salon for a pedicure and manicure, then ride valiantly forth to rescue her. If 364 days of the year fall short of a fairy tale, what makes the 365th day so special? Dr. Phil says, "If he doesn't treat you special every day, you might consider replacing him."

3. Guys expect way too much from it. Ah, the infallible logic of the male mind. Like many things in life, the male sex has placed an algorithm on Valentine's

Day: flowers + candy = sex. Cheap thrills for whatever Russell Stover product is on sale for at Walgreens.

While I have no problems with differentiating between love and sex, relationships and casual affairs, it becomes my problem when I get grouped in with this group.

I could give a girl one of those little candy hearts that says "Cutie" on it and she'll look at me like it says "Let's get

naked."

4. Nice guys finish last. Again. I can't even begin to count the number of nice things I've done for girls on Valentine's Day because they were my friends and deserved to be treated well.

All I was trying to do was show them that I cared, and I did it out of the kindness of my heart, expecting nothing in return, and for that one day, when there was some specially thought-out deed in front of them to show, they knew I cared.

And the day after, when all the hearts and bunny rabbits and rainbows were gone, I get sent to the back of the bus again. How quickly we forget our loyalties.

5. There's only one coconut. It must end, and it must end soon. Every box of chocolate ever conceived by man has one and only one piece of chocolate with coconut in it, and because I'm not the person who received the box of chocolate, I don't get first dibs, and, inevitably, never get that one coveted piece. How hard would it really be to make two — or, dare I say, three — pieces with coconut?

6. People dressed like Cupid. Little baby with hearts and such? Cute. Ted Kennedy look-alike wearing a bed sheet toga? Certainly not alright. It is not funny, it is not endearing. It is foul and wrong.

7. "We're in love!" You all know at least one couple that always has to remind you how

happy they are together. Valentine's Day is the perfect venue to stress just how perfect their relationship is, and they will not hesitate to show you.

"He got me flowers! And this plush puppy dog that's holding a heart! And this diamond necklace!" He also has at least a 44 percent chance of cheating on you according to a 2000 *New York Times* article.

8. The candy hearts. Invented in 1902 when a schizophrenic patient at St. Jude's psych ward left a chunk of toothpaste out to dry and wrote "I love you" on it to give to a nurse, these horrifying treats have been causing indigestion every year since. They also beat out Bit O' Honey and syrup of ipecac as the worst novelty candy in a recent survey.


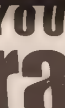
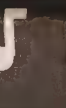


9. The greeting cards. Oh, the greeting cards. Since when does simply telling someone how you feel not cut it? The single most bewildering thing about these cards is how much they cost.

Last time I checked paper was fairly inexpensive, and judging by the quality of the material written in the card, I'm guessing Hallmark doesn't have a very large overhead for a writing staff.

10. Kitties and bunnies and puppies, oh my. The cuteness has to go. Fortunately, the perfect antidote for this is *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, which always runs the weekend after V-Day. Nothing like a little debauchery and Tim Curry in drag to set the mood.



COURTESY OF HTTP://RESENDIZBROTHERS.COM  
This V-Day, use flowers to help spice up the mood.



YOUR tracks

Compiled by Adi Elbaz

Top 10 Anti-Love Songs

Because angst is of more artistic merit than the cheap, sappy doggerel that rhymes "love" and "above." Or so you tell yourself as you sniffle your way through four tissue boxes and mainline your roommate's stale Valentine's truffles.

Magnetic Fields, "I Thought You Were My Boyfriend"  
For every poor, self-deluded shmuck who's been duped by a lover's lies.  
"I know you don't love me/ You know I don't care/Keep it hidden better."

Hercules soundtrack, "I Won't Say I'm in Love"  
Because you should have known better. Fool!  
"My head is screaming 'get a grip girl, unless you're dying to cry your heart out!'"

Gilat Hillel, "Lying to Myself"  
Emo has never been so peppy. Or so incomprehensible — the song is in Hebrew.  
"There's no reason to return to you ... I already know you won't love me tomorrow."

Bright Eyes, "Waste of Paint"  
Or, you know, anything else Conor Oberst has ever written.  
"Love's some kind of lottery/where you scratch and see what's underneath/It's 'sorry, just one cherry' or 'play again, get lucky.'"

MIKA, "Happy Ending"  
The title's, like, ironic. Get it?  
"No hope, no love, no glory. Happy ending's gone forevermore."

Jenny Owen Youngs, "F\*\*\* Was I"  
Impressively, both foulmouthed and succinct. Go Jenny.  
"What the fuck was I thinking? Love is so embarrassing."

The Postal Service, "Disagree"  
Appropriately gory imagery clashes with a feel-good electronic beat and mellow vocals.  
"Will someone please call a surgeon, who can crack my ribs and repair this broken heart that you're deserting for better company?"

Blood Brothers, "Love Rhymes with Hideous Car Wreck"  
Probably the most original (and polysyllabic) way to say "love bites."  
"You know it's dangerous to be so intimate."

Talking Heads, "Love g Building on Fire"  
Completely incomprehensible. Like love, really.  
"I've got two loves, which is my face, which is a building on fire." Um, OK.

Wilco, "I am Trying to Break Your Heart"  
Jeff Tweedy's karma must suck.  
"I am trying to break your heart. Still, I'd be lying if I said it wasn't easy."



# CARTOONS, ETC.

your horoscope



**Aries:** (March 21 - April 19)  
The boiler room of the Enterprise is surprisingly low-tech and constantly on the blitz. Be aware of this.



**Taurus:** (April 20 - May 20)  
"Hawk Talk" is the new radio show for bird lovers across the country. Tune in and listen to the sounds of nature.



**Gemini:** (May 21 - June 20)  
Man, do I hate Valentines Day. If you have a date you don't want to screw it up and if you don't have one you wish you did.



**Cancer:** (June 21 - July 22)  
Is the end of the world near? I guess I'm supposed to know that right? Well...for you, fair Gemini, I foresee a short future.



**Leo:** (July 23 - August 22)  
Coming of age is a painful process! Especially if age comes means getting the spit kicked out of you at football practice.



**Virgo:** (August 23 - Sept. 22)  
To be the best at something you can either work really hard, or sleep your way to the top. So, choose wisely this V-Day.



**Libra:** (Sept. 23 - October 22)  
Eat your veggies, Libras, so you can stay strong and healthy for the upcoming semester. And don't forget to shower.



**Scorpio:** (October 23 - Nov. 21)  
Your Mom's new "friend" Rick the pool cleaner might be more than a friend. The biggest clue is that you don't have a pool.



**Sagittarius:** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)  
Plump, delicious, round apples make my mouth water. I love the refreshing "crunch" of that first bite.



**Capricorn:** (Dec. 23 - January 19)  
Adorable puppies are good for presents for about 2 hours. Then responsibility sets in and that little sucker isn't gonna walk itself.



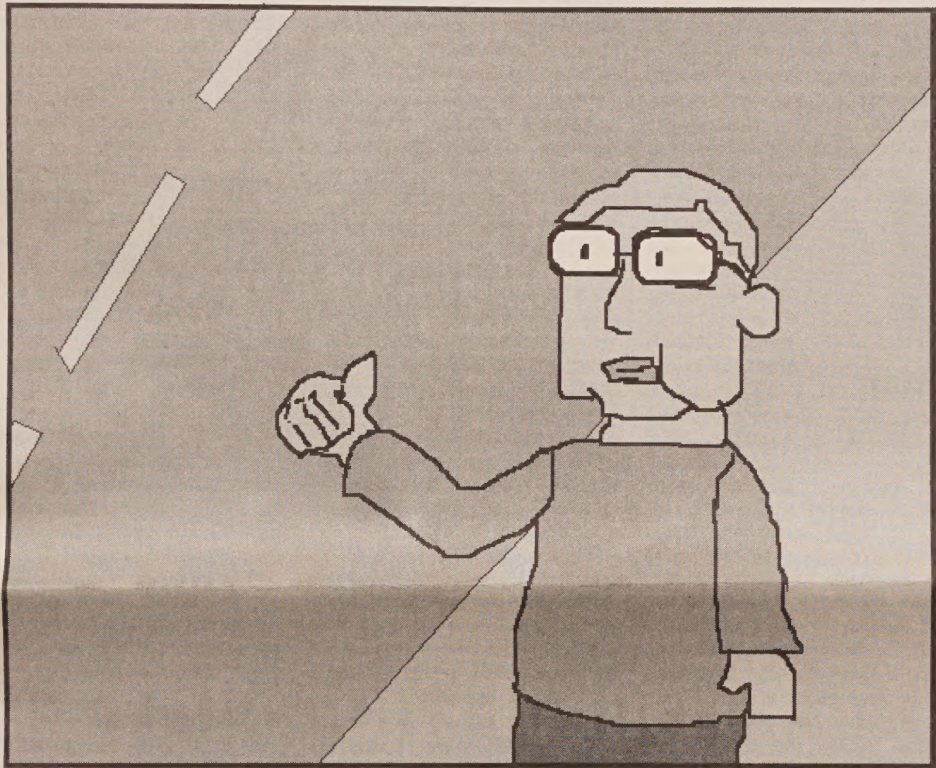
**Aquarius:** (January 20 - Feb. 18)  
Delectable meals are not how I would describe the meals at Nollans. But at least the hair from Ter-lance isn't there.



**Pisces:** (Feb. 19 - March 20)  
Babies dropping loads in your coffee have been proven to increase intelligence, according to a recent study. You wish, sucker!

## A Photo in Time

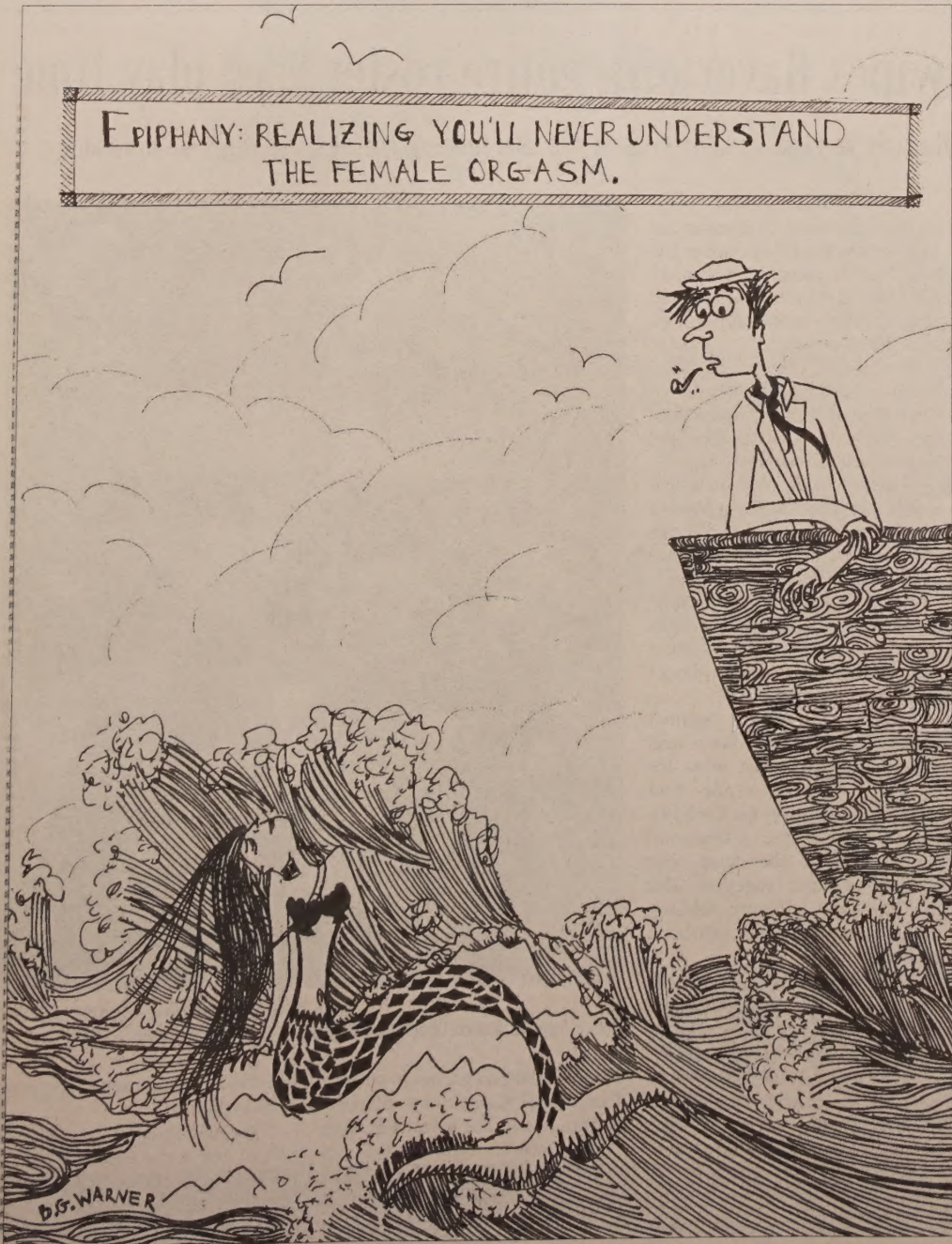
by Nate Min



Hitchhiking Movie Critic. What a pro!

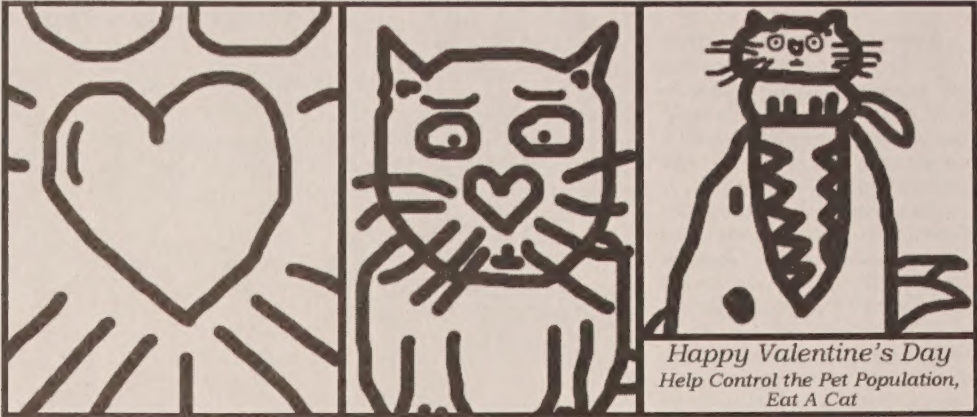
## Third Person Objective

by B.G. Warner



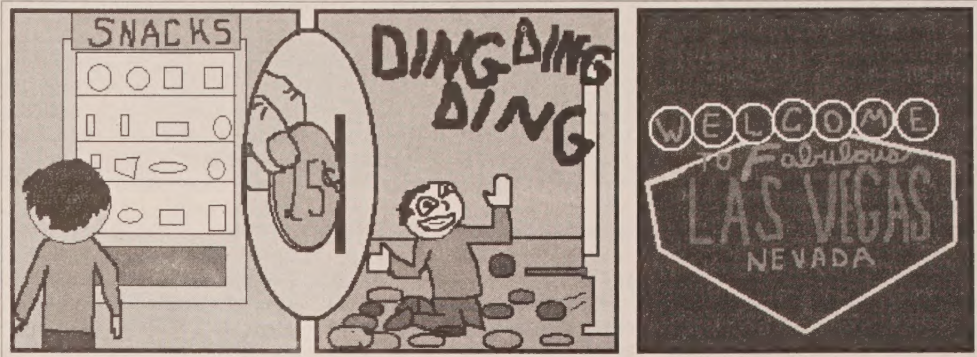
## Comicali

by Joe Micali



## Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



## Sudoku

		3					7	6
	5	7			9	8		4
	6	9		8				
6		4			3			
			6		8			
			7			3		9
				7		4	8	
9		5	2			6	1	
7	4					5		

# So a man walks into a bar...

I've read a lot of op-eds and magazine pieces recently that were dedicated to lamenting the Maryland smoking ban. The ban has been seen by some as the murder of a facet of American life. Gone is the iconic smoky pub, the mystery evoked by hazy, dim lights, cold beer, a cigarette and abject, soul-numbing depression. But *luckily* yours truly has been writing some brand new jokes tailor-made for a post-smoking ban world. So if you ever start to feel like individual freedom is slowly flopping and asphyxiating at your feet like a dying trout, here are my very best so-a-man-walked-into-a-bar style-jokes-for-the-post-smoking-ban-city.

1. So Sir-Mix-A-Lot walks into a bar looking for big butts, but he can't find a single one!

2. So a man walks into a bar and says to the bartender, "Hey, where are all the smokers?" And the bartender says, "Outside, buddy."

And the man says, "Outside, whaddaya mean, outside?"

And the bartender says, "Outside. Maryland law, as of Feb. 1, 2008, no longer permits smoking inside bars. So if you want a smoke, you need to go outside. Secondhand smoke is a real killer ya know."

The man didn't know, but he walks outside with his Camels anyway and has a smoke. He flicks his butt of cigarette into the road but it's still smoldering, so he walks to the gutter to stamp it out. Just then, a drunk driver swerves and hits the man.

The driver had been drinking at that same bar earlier and was coming back to get his wallet which he thought he had left

at the bar. He hadn't. His wallet was still in his pocket. But the universe sure has a funny way of working, doesn't it?

3. So this really hot woman walks into a bar, and the bartender cheekily asks her to leave because she is "smoking." She puts out her cigarette, utterly missing the humor.

5. So a man walk into a bar at 1 in the afternoon because he's a raging alcoholic and doesn't care about smoking at all.

6. So a terrorist walks into a bar with a concealed spray bottle full of kerosene with the intention of blasting it in the face of the first cigarette-smoking infidel he sees, sending them both to the great hereafter.

But the terrorist is blind so his plan would have been impossible anyway, despite the smoking ban. He should have thought this scheme through, for a lot of reasons!

7. So these two guys are really hitting it off in a bar, but one keeps complaining that he needs a smoke. The other guy says, "Whoa, man, you've got an addiction." But the music was so loud, the smoker thought he said, "Whoa, man, you've got a dick shunt."

He wasn't totally sure what this meant but thought it implied his genitals were broken and must be a hip putdown. He walked away, leaving his new friend feeling invasive and catty.

They both got over it!

8. So a priest, a rabbi and a monk all walked into the Den and felt very out of place despite the smoking ban. They all went home wondering what made them think a smoking ban would make them feel more at home in an urban bastion of iniquity and debauchery.

9. So the famous racehorse Cigar walked into a bar and the owner told him, "Your kind ain't allowed in bars no more."

Cigar wasn't sure if he was referring to his name, that of a smoking product, or the fact that Cigar is a horse and thus not allowed in bars. Cigar took a massive, horsey dump on the floor and lit his pipe anyway because he's a giant horse and doesn't care what anyone thinks.

10. So the ghost of Henry David Thoreau walks into a bar with a pack of cigarettes and the intention to sit at a table all night smoking, civilly disobeying a law he feels is morally reprehensible. But when helpful patrons start filling him in on the years of medical research linking cigarettes and Big Tobacco to government corruption and disease, he began to rethink his plan.

Thoreau's ghost becomes so internally conflicted that his soul supernovas and he collapses into a black hole upon himself, dying a second time and effectively destroying the space-time continuum. This second death functions in the new universe created by his collapse as a rebirth. He instantly appears alive in the bar and is worshipped by all as a demigod having civilly disobeyed the laws of quantum physics.

He get laid four times every night for the rest of his life despite living in a dumpy shack by a stagnant pond.

## Jackie Jennings Irreverent, Wacky Fun!



## SPORTS

# Guilt-free girlyness, at the gym

By MARY DOMAN  
Sports Editor

Spring break countdown: 29 days. Are you ready to bare that bod when you hit the California coast (or Jersey shore?) This week, I've ditched the DIII athletics for the athletics of the general student body.

On Monday, I attended the Recreation Center's afternoon "Body Toning" class. Okay, so I would still say my abs are far from resembling anything close to a washboard, but I'd like to think I replaced a small portion of flab with an ounce or two of muscle. And even if that didn't happen, at least I had fun and made a few friends.

The class started right at 5:15 p.m. As I set down my two workout mats, weights and elastic bands next to my small step-block tower, I glanced around the room to make sure everything was in the right place. The class held a variety of ages, body types and outfits, but all 13 people in the room had one thing in common: the glory of being a woman.

Not that this is a girls-only class, though. It just so happens that there isn't much of a male demand for "Body Toning," I guess. But guys, maybe you should reconsider. According to the instructor Anne, many of the exercises we did were the exact same ones done in the workout room. Except our dumbbells were padded and multi-colored, the heaviest at ten pounds.

"The body toning class serves as a great alternative to the weight room where many women tell me they're sometimes intimidated or clueless about what to do," Anne said.

"Classes offer an interesting leveling effect — sometimes



LAURA BITNER/ PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
According to Fitness Coordinator Anne Irwin, participants of the Rec Center's body toning classes are often 100 percent female.

you'll have an undergraduate instructor but you'll be sweating it out next to one of your professors or even President Brody. It's a great welcoming atmosphere to people of all backgrounds."

Anyway, Anne started the music: Britney's 2004 hit "Do Somethin'." After three and a half minutes of simple back and forth step-touches to get warmed up, Gwen Stefani led us through the next exercise. "I think this is called the girl-power remix or something," Anne joked. "Is that OK with everyone?"

An overwhelming approval was given, and class continued. After warm-up, we did all sorts

of bends, pushes and crunches to touch muscles I didn't even know I had. Some of the exercises were basic push-ups, some were more complicated forms of simple crunches or leg lifts. Anne also busted out a secret stash of ankle weights. "Are these okay with everyone, or are you guys opposed to looking too '80s?" she asked.

Once again, the class seemed to embrace the silliness as we eagerly strapped on the bright blue weights.

At this point I realized I was having fun. After witnessing some variety practices, I would definitely put fitness classes in a totally different category. Perhaps the workout wasn't quite as intense (physically or mentally), but it's the atmosphere of a fitness class that keeps members coming back for more. Instead of whistles, orders or suicides, we gabbed about Gwen's pregnancy and *American Gladiators*.

"Classes that offer something extra for stress relief — like the mind-body connection in yoga or Pilates — are still big and I don't see that dying off anytime soon ... I think women have been getting more and more into strength training."

The hour was coming to an end. I hadn't really broken a sweat, but I did feel a slight burn

in some areas: my calves, my biceps and my back. Probably not enough to make a huge difference when I don my bikini this spring, but at least I strengthened the normal social interaction skills, a muscle group that seems to be a little rusty in many Hopkins students.

"Overall it's a great workout for your muscles that don't get as much attention when you just use the treadmill or the elliptical," body toner Carleigh Connelly said.

If you're looking to have a guiltless hour of girlyness, you and your friends should drop the non-fat, no-whip, sugar-free lattes and just hit the gym. It's really not that hard. You'll save a few bucks and burn a few calories, too!

Anne summed it up when she said, "I think exercise and sleep are two things Hopkins students cut out when they get busy, but they're really the things that make people the most productive over time! Exercise is important, and while our classes offer great opportunities to be active, there's so many other opportunities on campus too. Everyone should choose something and do it a few times a week — not just for your physical health but also for your mental sanity!"



Mary Doman  
Practice Makes Perfect

## Stanley stands strong, but other wrestlers struggle

Continued from Page B12  
Crumlish and senior 184-pounder Eric Fishel all secured individual victories. However, despite the individual wins, the team still managed to fall short, losing to the Ducks by a score of 23-15. It became apparent that something was wrong with the Jays, who were on a winning streak until this weekend.

"We did hold back a little bit," Stanley said. "If we all wrestled without any reservations, without anything holding us back mentally, we would have won at least four more matches. We could have wrestled better, but I think for what we did, we wrestled tough. You can't be consistently dominant every single match."

Whether it was the six-hour drive or the intense competition that pulled the Jays to two straight losses doesn't matter. The team is looking forward. The Jays have a little over a week in the practice room before the Centennial Conference Championships on Feb. 23. As the team prepares for conferences, will this past tri-match prove to be a stumbling block or a rallying point?

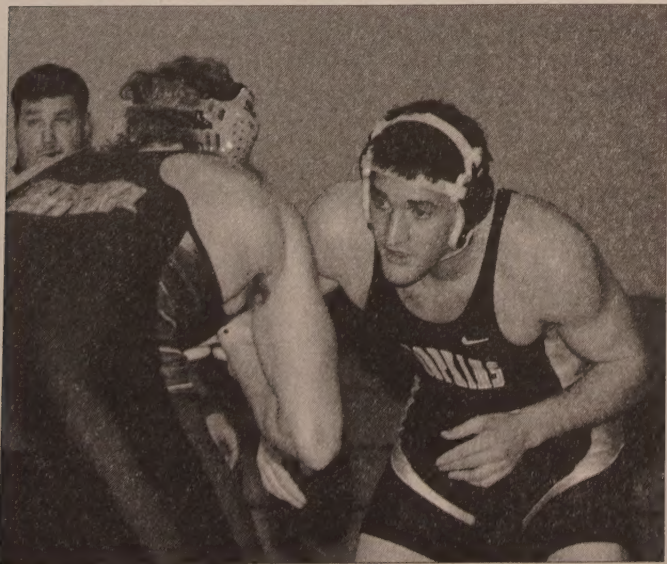
"I definitely think it's a rally because we have so much time to fix all the mistakes we made," Schmidt said. "Team morale is actually pretty good. We're doing a lot of different stuff this week. We're putting a little more time in

the weight room and we're doing a lot of individual tactical clinics. Before each practice, two weight classes are working with the coach on a personal level, and fixing whatever is going on wrong with their form, so any little problems they have are going to be fixed going into conferences."

"I think that our team can do incredible if we just focus on these next two weeks," Stanley said. "Just staying focused and working as hard as we possibly can. A lot of it, I think, is mind-set right now. If we all believe we can win the whole entire thing, there's no reason it can't happen. Personally, I think I should win the entire conference."

The Hopkins wrestling team is currently ranked fourth in the Centennial Conference, behind Merchant Marine, Stevens Tech and Ursinus College. However, tournament scoring is entirely different than dual match-ups. The losses the team has suffered to these schools means nothing going into conferences.

The Jays have several young wrestlers who could pull major upsets, and the team could potentially send several wrestlers to the finals. With their eyes set on nothing less than a championship season, the Jays are looking for redemption, and doing all they can to attain it. The Centennial Conference Championship will be held at Ursinus College at Collegeville, Pa. on Feb. 23.



CONOR KEVITT/ PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Senior Eric Fishel's individual victory wasn't enough to secure a Hopkins team win.

## Track breaks records, not hearts, at Valentine meet

Continued from Page B12  
The Hopkins women's distance medley relay finished with a time of 12:46.38. This was good enough to earn the ladies a spot in the ECAC meet. The team consisted of Ireton, Harris, Osborne and junior Rachel Hogen combined to give the second best performance in school history in the event. Hogen also finished 64th in the mile, running a time of 5:20.27.

Not to be outdone, the men's team added several outstanding performances of their own.

Sophomore Graham Belton earned a trip to ECAC in the one-mile run, the first Hopkins runner to ever do so in the event. Belton's time of 4:20.94 was able to top fellow sophomore Noah Jampol's former indoor school record of 4:25.33. Jampol, who ran in the same heat as Belton, was able to finish with a season's best 4:26.43.

"I wasn't expecting to run that well, especially coming off only two weeks of training with the team," Belton said.

When asked about his goals for the rest of the season, Belton responded, "I'd like to hopefully hit the nationals provisional time in the mile by ECACs."

Senior co-captain Patrick Brandon was able to top his own school record set last year in the 5,000-meter run by 6.94 seconds. Brandon's new indoor record now stands at 15:12.89, another ECAC qualifying time. This was coming off of a stellar cross country season, in which Brandon was the first Hopkins runner to compete at nationals in over 15 years.

Sophomore James Walker's performance in the 400-meter run earned him an 86th place finish. Walker ran a season's best 51.33 in the event. Sophomore Nate Sotuyo ran 1:59.02 in the 800-meter run, also a season's best in the open event. Sotuyo was followed closely by seniors and co-captains James Bronson and Jason Hortatis. The two ran an impressive 2:00.18 and 2:01 respectively.

Junior Geoff Nunns was able to set a new personal best en route to an ECAC qualifying performance in the 3,000-meter run. Nunns finished in 80th place with a time of 8:55.89.

When asked about how he

felt about earning his first trip to ECACs, Nunns responded, "It's a nice feeling; it's great to go there after two years of running for this program. The number of qualifiers we have this year just attests to the strength of our team."

In the field, junior Matt Trachtenberg set a personal best in pole vault, finishing tied for 15th in the pole vault with a leap of 14 feet 3.25 inches. The height also qualified Trachtenberg for ECAC's. Fellow Junior Adam Waddell was also able to reach the same height in the event.

The men's distance medley relay team was the final ECAC qualifier. Along with the ECAC invite, the men managed to set a new indoor school record of 10:20.26.

The team of Bronson, Walker, Sotuyo and Belton was led by strong performances from Sotuyo in the 800 (1:57) and Belton in the mile (4:18). The team's time was able to tear down the Hopkins 800 record of 10:32.33, set in 2002.

As the season enters the home stretch for both the men and women, both teams are looking forward to what they can do at the Centennial Conference championships, as well as reflecting on the years behind them.

"When I came in as a freshman, the women's team placed in seventh place, and I believe had never placed in the top five teams at conferences," Reeves said.

"But steadily, we improved, with the high point being last year during my first year as captain, when we placed second overall. This year I want to keep this record of improvement and end it by having the women's team place first at conferences."

"We all set out to get decent qualifying standards for conferences, and I think everyone did that," Bronson said about the weekend. "The men's team is going into the last three weeks with ever-increasing expectations, hoping to break Haverford's streak of track championships as long as everyone runs to their potential in a few weeks."

With both teams geared up and ready to go, they head to New York's Armory for the second to last meet before conferences this Friday to compete in the Lafayette Rider Games.

The number of qualifiers we have this year just attests to the strength of our team.

— JUNIOR GEOFF NUNNS

## W. basketball swipes Haverford, entire roster sees play time

Phillips, Burton and the rest of the Lady Jays take an uninterrupted lead after first two minutes, claiming a 67-45 victory.

Continued from Page B12  
snapped the cold streak with a three-pointer as she would do all game. After Haverford's Brittany Lattisaw pulled Haverford to within four points with 14:24 remaining in the first half, Phillips once again stepped up and drilled a three-pointer. Phillips's three would send Hopkins on a 23-2 run that would effectively put the game out of reach.

"We definitely stepped up our defense [during the run]," freshman forward Siobhan Callanan said. "They got the opening basket and after that our goal was to not allow them to get any more easy shots. We were able to create turnovers and we scored on those turnovers."

Haverford turned the ball over 27 times in the game and Hopkins capitalized by scoring 30 points off the sloppy play of the Fords. Hopkins played somewhat of a sloppy game as well, turning the ball over 21 times, but Haverford only scored 14 points off of those turnovers and 12 of those were in the second half after the game was pretty much out of reach.

"When we get the momentum going and get a few quick points, we can usually generate those runs really quickly, especially if we have the defense going," said Kielb, who led the team in minutes with 29 and added two points of her own in the contest.

The big win allowed Hopkins to play most of its team, as 14 girls saw floor time before the final buzzer sounded. In all, 11 Blue Jays got in on the scoring, and Phillips paced all scorers with her 16 points.

Freshman forward Lyndsay Burton poured in 14 of her own in as many minutes. Sophomore forward Monica Mitchell led the team in rebounds with six.

"Our whole team got in, which was huge," Kielb said. "When we play a game where everyone can play it's always a really big sense of accomplishment."

As the regular season begins to wind down, the Lady Jays have found themselves in a dogfight for the fifth and final playoff spot.

Upcoming games against Muhlenberg, Bryn Mawr and Washington are must wins for the Jays, who currently find themselves fighting for the fifth-place spot in the Centennial Conference. If the team can continue to put together 23-2 first half runs, however, nabbing the fifth spot should not be a problem.

"We need to play with the defensive intensity that we've had in our recent wins," Callanan said of the upcoming games.

"It is going to come down to who wants it more and who is willing to put it all on the line to win, and our team is ready to step up."

Hopkins has currently won



CONOR KEVITT/ PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Senior forward Andrea Dodrill aims for two of Hopkins's 67 points on Saturday.

five of its last six games to put the Centennial Conference playoffs within reach. The team will need to continue its winning ways if the women do not wish to repeat last year's sixth-place finish that

left the team just out of the post-season picture.

"We are doing everything we can to get in the playoffs," Kielb said. "We are just scrapping to get into that last spot."



SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK  
GRAHAM BELTON, MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

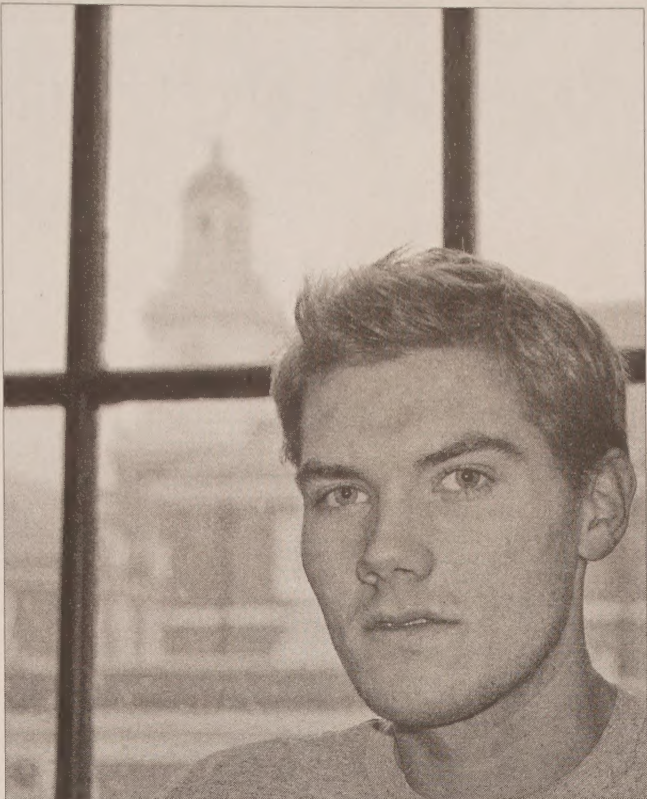
Fast as a hare in track, slow as a tortoise in the shower

By KATIE MOODY  
News-Letter Staff Writer

When sophomore distance runner Graham Belton wakes up on the morning of a meet, his schedule seems to be not much different than that of someone with an 8 a.m. class. Roll out of bed pretty early in the morning, take the longest shower that is humanly possible and then grab a bite to eat. This may sound like an ordinary day to most people, but Graham insists that it is definitely anything but ordinary. How he mentally prepares for his races that day all starts with the shower. "I don't care where I am, or what time I get up, I am going to take as long as I want," he said. "Sometimes I have angry roommates that bang on the door of the bathroom, but I need that long shower."

Once Graham is overly squeaky-clean and at the track meet, it's relaxation time until about an hour before the race. At this point, he gathers a few things (including his lucky socks that he has worn every race since the ninth grade), takes a walk somewhat far away from the hustle and bustle and takes some time to be alone. "Don't put that in the article!" he said with a laugh. "People might get the wrong idea!"

On the outside, Graham is a regular sophomore at Hopkins. As an Atlanta, Ga. native, he's majoring in chemical engineering. Graham is clearly a bright student, motivated and hard-working. But on the inside, he's a tough competitor. On Feb. 8, during the Valentine Invitational held at Boston University, Gra-



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

ham ran a 4:20.94 in the mile and finished 65th. He qualified for ECAC's and broke the Hopkins record in the process, an accomplishment that has earned him the News-Letter Athlete of the Week spotlight.

**VITAL STATISTICS**

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** Chemical Engineering

**Position:** N/A

**Hopkins Highlights:**  
First Hopkins runner to ever qualify for the ECAC in the one-mile run

ham ran a 4:20.94 in the mile and finished 65th. He qualified for ECAC's and broke the Hopkins record in the process, an accomplishment that has earned him the News-Letter Athlete of the Week spotlight.

Graham was very gracious and excited for the recognition. I caught up with him during a phone interview, where he gave me an

extensive insider's look into his competitive life as well as his

more personal side. He's a hockey fan when watching sports on television, and he takes inspiration from Ethiopian long-distance runner Haile Gebrselassie, who has broken 25 world records and is widely known as one of the best distance runners of all time. But what does he find so great about running long distances?

"The best thing about long-distance running is being able to just take off in any direction with a couple friends, enjoying each other's company and catching up," he said. "It's an awesome way to spend your time."

When Graham isn't taking off in all directions with friends in his lucky socks, he can be found studying, which is definitely consistent with the tradition of being

a Hopkins engineer. He says that his favorite food is fresh fruit of any kind, specifically watermelon, and if he could have any super power, he'd love to be able to fly. But why fly when you can run like the wind?

If he isn't forced to have to get his meals at one of the fine dining establishments here at Hopkins, Graham says that he would love to invite Alexander the Great, Gebrselassie and Jude Law to dinner. It's pretty obvious about the first two mentioned, but Jude Law is quite the outlier. "A lot of people that I meet tell me that I look like Jude Law," he said, with a hint of embarrassment in his voice. "I'd just like to see if that was true or not."

Intelligence, athleticism, good looks. Is there anything missing in Graham's life? Besides his hidden ability to speak French, not much. "One of my favorite classes that I have ever taken at Hopkins was a scientific French class," he said. "Engineering got a bit easier after that, because we learned about the roots of the terms we were trying to apply mathematically. I guess some of my friends don't really know that my hidden talent is that I can speak the language pretty well." C'est bien!

Graham and the track team are heading up to New York, N.Y. on Friday for the Lafayette Rider Games, and he is pretty excited. However, the one question looming on everyone's mind was one that had to be asked: boxers or briefs? "Briefs," he said, without any kind of hesitation. "Always briefs!"

There is one thing that is not going to be "brief" about Graham: his athletic career. It seems as though he is definitely going to be the go-to guy for Hopkins long-distance running for quite a while. Let's just hope his socks are clean and his bathroom is unoccupied every morning.

M. Basketball pulls a victory in final seconds of the game

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12**  
The five-minute overtime period proceeded very similarly to regulation, with three ties and three lead changes. After a Kamm layup tied the game at 62 with just under a minute left, Haverford had a chance to answer on the other end of the court but Thomas was called for a charge and Hopkins regained possession. With 15 seconds left, Nelson signaled for a timeout and called for an inbounds play underneath the basket.

"The play we set up, we didn't run correctly. But Scott [Weisenfeld] had to get the ball in play because we had no timeouts left," Nelson said.

This led Weisenfeld to attempt to heave the ball toward senior co-captain Kevin Roach at midcourt, but the pass was short and was intercepted by Thomas, who was then fouled. Thomas converted on the first free throw, but missed the second, leaving Hopkins down by one point with 13 seconds to go. Kamm brought the ball up and Weisenfeld was able to break free off of a Farber-Miller screen. Weisenfeld then took a pass from Kamm and curled into the middle of the lane and hit a floater over Haverford's defender, putting Hopkins up by one on a shot Coach Nelson has aptly named a "Weisenfeld floater." A last second desperation shot by Haverford was no good, and Hopkins escaped with a victory.

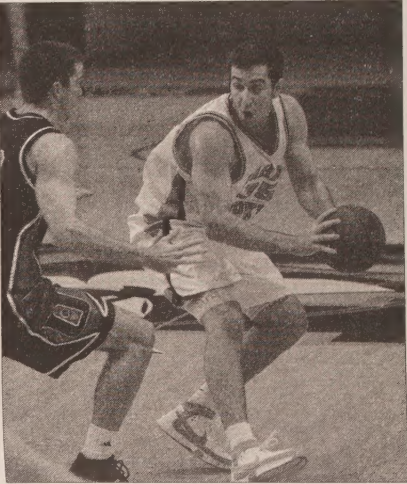
Weisenfeld's teammates were not surprised that the junior, who missed all of last season with an injury would come through. "With 'Big Shot' Scott banging a huge three against Swarthmore earlier in the season, I knew when the game was on the

line, he'd come through," Polster said.

The Haverford game put the team in third place in the Centennial Conference standings. With nationally ranked Ursinus holding a firm grasp on the top spot in the conference and Gettysburg cemented in the number two seed, five teams are competing for the final three spots in the Centennial Conference tournament. Thus, this win was a huge boost for the third place Jays.

"It was huge. It was really big and the problem is it seems like a lot of the other teams that were in contention are winning also," said Coach Nelson, who is also very impressed with the fight his team has been showing. "We've just got to continue to battle and it seems like we're in a lot of very close games. We've been fortunate but I'll give our guys some credit because they just never quit."

This weekend the Jays face Muhlenberg in Allentown, Pa. The last game these two teams played was back on Jan. 16, when the Jays and the Mules battled it out for three overtimes, and the Blue Jays were able to pull out a victory.



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Senior forward Kevin Roach working to get inside.



A GOURMET BURRITO.  
IT'S KINDA LIKE A  
LUXURY PICKUP TRUCK.



Chipotle  
MEXICAN GRILL

SAINT PAUL & 32ND



# SPORTS

## CHECK THIS OUT!

The Roger Clemens steroid hearings reached several heated moments yesterday afternoon. Though the hearing is still going on, it doesn't look good for the Rocket.

<http://sports.espn.go.com/broadband/video/video?categoryid=3153777>

## CALENDAR

No scheduled events this week

## M. basketball pulls a victory in final seconds

In an edge-of-the-seat finish, the Blue Jays pulled ahead of the Haverford Fords with a final shot by junior Scott Weisenfeld

By ERIC GOODMAN  
News-Letter Staff Writer

While our mascot, the blue jay, is not usually classified as a tenacious animal, the Hopkins Blue Jays (13-8, 9-5) played with the tenacity of pit bulls on Saturday as they defeated the Haverford Fords (5-15, 3-11) 64-63 in overtime. The Jays refused to quit in a game which saw 18 lead changes and 14 ties, culminating in overtime with junior Scott Weisenfeld's game winning jump shot with four seconds remaining.

For the Jays, who only have four games left this season, this was a crucial game in the Centennial Conference standings. Hopkins faced Haverford at home earlier in the season, handily winning 65-51, but knew that on the road things would be slightly more difficult.

"Last year they played us here at Hopkins in the Centennial Conference tournament and we beat them in a close game and they only lost one key player. They're a dangerous team with a record that doesn't indicate that," head coach Bill Nelson said. "They came out and it was a battle."

Hopkins led the entire game the first time these two teams played, but in this back and forth affair, that was certainly not the case. Neither team led by more

than four until 15 minutes through the first half, when Haverford took a 25-20 lead on a three pointer by Matt Palmer. But Hopkins refused to go down lightly and, showing its tenacity after a timeout by Coach Nelson, tore open an 11-6 run to end the half, including five points from sophomore Andrew Farber-Miller, who finished with 21 points, and four from fellow sophomore Pat O'Connell. This run tied the score at 31 going into the half, the same number of points Hopkins scored in the first half the first time these two teams met.

After halftime, Hopkins slowly crept out to a six point lead with just under 15 minutes left in the half, going on a 10-4 run which Farber-Miller keyed with six points. But after Haverford took a 42-41 lead with 12 minutes remaining on a Chaz Thomas field goal the score began to waver once again as neither team

led by more than three for the next eight minutes.

The scoring for Hopkins dried up at the wrong time, as Hopkins went more than three and a half minutes without scoring toward the end of regulation. The Fords took advantage during that time, going on a five-point scoring run, aided by an offensive put-back



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Sophomore guard Pat O'Connell fights off a Haverford defender to sink a hookshot in Saturday's game.

on a missed free throw, to take a 55-52 lead with 2:12 remaining. Neither team scored for the next minute and a half, and when Haverford guard Mike Fratan-gelo turned the ball over with 39 seconds left, Hopkins called a timeout to regroup. It worked, and senior co-captain Doug Polster, the centennial conference leader in three pointers, hit a three pointer with 35 seconds left to tie the game at 55.

"Once I hit the three I knew we were going to win the game," said a confident Polster, who finished the game with 16 points.

However, neither team was able to get on the scoreboard in regulation and the game went into overtime.

The Jays have become adept at playing in overtime games this season. After losing the championship game of the Blue Jay Invitational in overtime, Hopkins reeled off three straight overtime wins.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B11

## Wrestling slows momentum with two losses

By DEMIAN KENDALL  
Sports Editor

The wrestling team hit a stumbling block this weekend when they made the six-hour trip up to Kings Point, N.Y. to compete in a tri-match with the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and Stevens Tech. The Jays opened the competition with a grueling 38-3 loss against the undefeated Merchant Marine, managing to win only one individual bout in the entire match. Their next match against Stevens Tech was somewhat closer, but the Jays still couldn't finish against the Ducks, falling short by a score of 23-15.

The Merchant Marine squad came out strong from the get-go, tearing through the first five bouts to secure two pins, two decisions and a major decision against the Jays' lower weight classes. "Merchant Marine, they're really very, very good," junior 184-pounder Tyler Schmidt said. "Not only did they match up well against us, but all their kids are extremely good. They have an excellent recruiting program and they use it to its fullest extent."

Merchant Marine led the match 22-0 going into the 165-pound bout. It was up to fresh-

man 165-pounder Pat Stanley to secure any hope of coming out with a victory.

"Going into it I was a little bit nervous because we either got pinned or lost every single match before it," Stanley said. "If I didn't win the match it would have guaranteed a [team] loss. I just relaxed and went into it as

up almost perfectly- neither of the two wrestlers managed to score a point in the first two periods. In a nail-biting third period, Sean Patrick of Merchant Marine managed to score a stand-up for a one-point escape. However, Stanley quickly managed to score what would be the winning takedown. Stanley, a

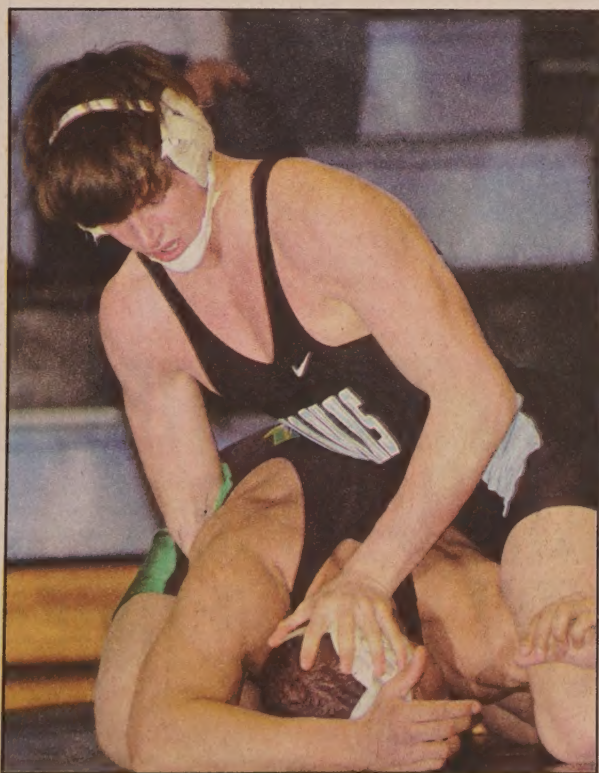
dominant wrestler on top, kept Patrick on the mat to score an additional point of riding time, bringing the final score to 3-1.

"I was really impressed with Pat Stanley over the weekend," Schmidt said. "He had a slump midway through the season and I think he's going to recover. I think he has a really good shot at winning the whole [conference]."

Despite Stanley's rallying victory, the Blue Jays were unable to follow in his footsteps. The remaining wrestlers all suffered defeats, making the final score 38-3.

Stanley was the only wrestler to win both bouts of the tri-match. In the Stevens Tech match, Hopkins saw some improvement as Stanley, Schmidt, senior 149-pounder Jim

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Freshman 165-pounder Patrick Stanley works to get behind his opponent.

hard as I could for as long as I could."

Stanley remained strong throughout the match, but he and his opponent were at a gridlock. Their styles matching

## Track and field teams break records in Boston

Men's team says goodbye to old one-mile, 5,000-meter, and distance medley relay records at BU Valentine Invitational

By MIKE YUAN  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Records fell for both the men's and women's track and field teams this past weekend as the Jays traveled north to Boston to compete in Boston University's Valentine Invitational. The two-day meet saw fierce competition from some of the top Division I and III teams in the nation.

Both teams came off of first place finishes the previous weekend in the Ursinus Frank Colden Invitational. The strong performances at that meet were carried over to Friday and Saturday's competition.

On the women's side, junior co-captain Jordan Ireton was able to break the two-year-old 400-meter indoor record, formerly held by Giselle Joseph. Ireton's time of 59.66 topped Joseph's by 0.27 seconds and also qualified her for ECAC's, which will be held in Boston in early March.

Freshman Christina Valerio was able to better her season best in the 3,000-meter run by 23.1 seconds as she ran 10:43.23. Her time was well under the ECAC standard, earning her a trip with back as well.

"The race was very exciting because I was in a faster heat racing against very good runners," Valerio said. "The last mile of the race just flew by, but I have never felt so strong at the end of a race. I have been trying to qualify for



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Junior foil Ben Dorfman sticks a point to one of his opponents in the tournament.

## Lady Jays shoot down Haverford

By MAX DWORIN  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Going into Saturday's game against Haverford, the Lady Jays had never lost against the Fords in the history of the program. A strong dose of junior forward Kristin Phillips and a 23-2 first-half run at Gooding Arena in Haverford, Penn. ensured that this was not be the year the streak would be broken. With the 67-45 win Hopkins moves to 10-10 overall and 8-6 in the Centennial Conference, dropping Haverford to a 3-18 overall record and a 0-15 mark in conference play.

Coming off a tough one-point loss against Franklin and Marshall last Thursday, Hopkins was determined not to drop an important game late in the season even against a Haverford team most everyone knew was not anywhere close to as talented.

"Every team in our conference is capable of winning games no matter what their record is," sophomore guard Steph Kielb said.

"We go into every game with the mindset that the score is 0-0 and we need to do our job and follow our game plan. We have the same mentality no matter who our opponent is."

Haverford got on the board first with a fast-break layup and managed to hold its 2-0 lead for over two minutes, but Phillips

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10

## INSIDE

### Women's Basketball: Jays top Haverford

The Lady Jays kept their undefeated streak against Haverford alive for another year as they pulled off a major victory against the Fords this past Saturday. **Page B10.**

### Athlete of the Week: Graham Belton

Graham Belton recently became the first Hopkins runner to qualify for the ECAC tournament in the one-mile run. Our writer Katie Moody found out what keeps him going. **Page B11.**

### Practice Makes Perfect: Body Toning Class

Sports Editor Mary Doman went out into the world of Hopkins fitness once again. This time in "Practice Makes Perfect" she re-lives her experience at Body Toning Class. **Page B10.**